

Message

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**Sent:** 8/27/2020 3:34:37 PM  
**To:** charles.cavnor@dallascityhall.tx.gov  
**Subject:** Final ASPECT Report for Poly-America Fire  
**Attachments:** ASPECT Summary Poly America Fire 21 Aug 2020.pdf

Here is the final report from the ASPECT flight for last week's fire at Poly America. Let me know if you have any questions.

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# Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology

## Poly-America Fire Report

Grand Prairie, Texas  
19 August 2020



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## **Acronyms and Abbreviations**

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Alt     | Altitude (in feet)                                      |
| AGL     | Above Ground Level                                      |
| cm      | centimeter  |
| CST     | Central Standard Time                                   |
| DFW     | Dallas—Forth Worth International Airport                |
| DEM     | Digital Elevation Model                                 |
| Digital | Digital photography file from the Nikon D2X camera      |
| ft      | feet  |
| FTIR    | Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer                 |
| igm     | Spectral data format based on grams format              |
| IR      | Infrared  |
| IRLS    | Infrared Line Scanner                                   |
| jpg     | JPEG image format                                       |
| kts     | knots   |
| mph     | miles per hour  |
| m/s     | meters per second                                       |
| MSIC    | Digital photography file from the Imperx mapping camera |
| MSL     | Mean Sea Level Altitude (in feet)                       |
| ppm     | parts per million                                       |
| UTC     | Universal Time Coordinated                              |



# **Field Report for Airborne Data Collected In Support of US EPA Region VI Poly-America Fire Response 19 August 2020**

## **Background and Operational Overview**

On 19 August 2020 a fire developed at the Poly-America Plastics facility located near Grand Prairie, TX. Officials reported that the fire began around midnight Wednesday morning in an area north of the facility along the rail line. At the time of the ASPECT activation, some reports indicated that two rail cars may be impacted in addition to a collection of pallets on the north side of the rail spur. Poly-America Plastics facility lies within the northwest corner of the intersection of SH-303/West Pioneer Parkway and SH-161/President George Bush Turnpike. The geographical coordinates for the facility are 32.7220N, 97.0363W (Figure 1).

U.S. EPA Region VI requested for the ASPECT system to be deployed to provide monitoring support on 19 August 2020. The order to launch the aircraft was given at approximately 0715 CST, and the aircraft was airborne at 0810 CST. Upon arrival, the ASPECT aircraft faced air space challenges because the site was in the approach path for DFW airport. With the help of Regional coordination, the ASPECT plane was granted access to fly in brief intervals at specific altitudes per orders of DFW Air Traffic Control. ASPECT completed the first of 8 runs at 0922 CST. Only one mission was needed for the incident. This report summarizes the findings observed during the flight mission.



Figure 1: Location of Poly-America Facility in Grand Prairie, TX

## General Mission Objectives

Once granted access to fly over the site, the following general mission objectives are employed in conducting emergency response data collection with ASPECT:

1. To capture an overall, situational awareness of the incident using aerial photography with:
  - Oblique camera—photos taken by hand from the view/position of the co-pilot, and
  - MSIC photos—advanced camera housed underneath the plane for a top-down view of the incident
2. To qualitatively characterize and locate both the visible and non-visible components of the plume, as well as which areas are on fire:
  - Using the Infrared Line Scanner (IRLS)
3. To screen for the presence and location of specific chemicals within ASPECT's chemical library:
  - Using the Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) Spectrometer

## Flight Conditions and Status

### Weather and Site Conditions

Before the mission begins status on the weather forecast, site conditions and any potential flight obstacles including radio towers is collected for the health and safety of the crew. A complete timeline of the ground weather conditions during the mission can be found in Table 1.

**Table 1. Ground Weather for Poly-America Fire Response**

| Location (time) | Ground (0800)     | Ground (0900)   | Ground (1000)     | Ground (1100)    | Ground (1200)     |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Wind direction  | 025 degrees (NNE) | 000 degrees (N) | 060 degrees (ENE) | 045 degrees (NE) | 335 degrees (NNW) |
| Wind speed      | 2.7 m/s (6 mph)   | 1.3 m/s (3 mph) | 2.2 m/s (5 mph)   | 2.7 m/s (6 mph)  | 1.3 m/s (3 mph)   |
| Temperature     | 23°C              | 25°C            | 27°C              | 29°C             | 30°C              |
| Humidity        | 64%               | 58%             | 51%               | 43%              | 39%               |
| Dew Point       | 16°C              | 16°C            | 16°C              | 15°C             | 15°C              |
| Pressure        | 1014 mb           | 1014 mb         | 1015 mb           | 1025 mb          | 1025 mb           |
| Ceiling         | Clear             | Clear           | Clear             | Clear            | Clear             |

While in flight, the crew reported that winds at 2800 ft AGL were 5.6 m/s (11 kts) from 035 degrees. Weather conditions were ideal throughout the mission—little to no turbulence was experienced by the crew. Smoke emitted from the fire was reported to be black in color and rose rapidly immediately downwind of the fire. A low-level plume of white smoke was also reported (see Figure 8).

## Site Challenges

The order to launch the aircraft was given at approximately 0715 CST on 19 August 2020 and the aircraft was airborne at 0810 CST. ASPECT was not able to proceed directly to the site upon takeoff because the plume was in the approach path for DFW International Airport. With communication to EPA Region VI and Region VI outreach to the local Fire Chief, ASPECT was initially given a 20-minute window to collect data at specific altitudes that were directed by the control tower. The pilots stayed in continuous contact with DFW's Air Traffic Control tower throughout the mission. At 0923 CST the aircraft performed the first data collection over the site. DFW Air Traffic Control extended the 20-minute window for data collection to 40 minutes which allowed ASPECT to complete several more data collection runs. The mission was complete at 1107 CST. The aircraft made a total of 8 data collection runs; flight information is summarized in Appendix A and Figure 2.

## **Data Results**

The following data is provided as a summary analysis. All data products are available for the Region to access on a shared FTP site. For a complete list of available products, see Appendix A. The data collected during this mission included a flight path summary, IRLS images, FTIR chemical identification and quantification, high resolution MSIC photos, and oblique photos.

## Flight Paths

With the challenges of sharing air space during the mission, the plane had to maneuver in various way across the site to be compliant with DFW Air Traffic Control requirements. Wide, slow turns have to be made in between runs in order to keep the instruments stable. Figure 2 shows the various flight paths that the plane had to take to maintain optimal data quality. The blue lines indicate the flight path while the green lines indicate the specific sections of the flight where chemical data was collected and processed.

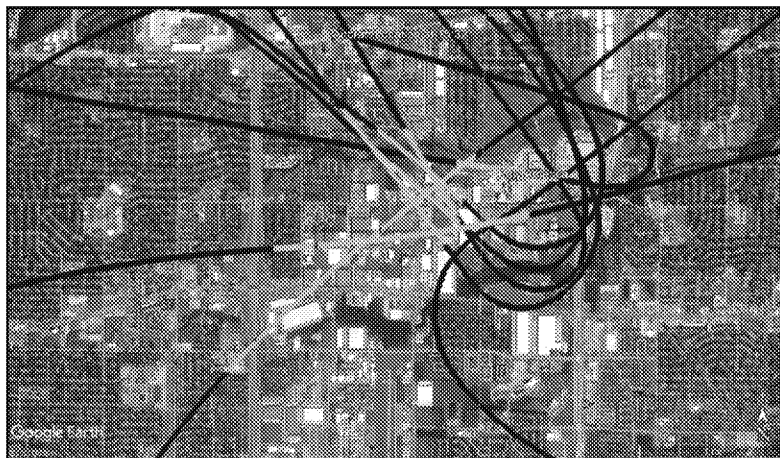


Figure 2. Data collection runs, Poly-America Fire, Grand Prairie, TX.

### Line Scanner Data Results

A total of 8 data collection runs were made in the proximity of the fire and an infrared line scanner image was generated for each run. Figure 3 shows a typical 3-band infrared image obtained from data collected for Run 2. This image was generated by flying approximately 250 meters downwind of the facility. The white area within the image is the heat signature of the fire. A thermal plume (broken white cloud on the southwest edge of the fire) can be seen being emitted. The linear lines seen projecting from the fire toward the southwest are artifacts of detector saturation. Based on this imagery, no detectable chemical plume was being generated by the fire.



Figure 3. Three band IR image, Run 2, Poly-America Fire

## FTIR Data Results

FTIR spectral data at a resolution of 16 wavenumbers was collected for each run. ASPECT uses an automated detection algorithm to permit compounds to be analyzed while the aircraft is in flight. Seventy-six compounds are included in the airborne algorithm (the list is given in Appendix B, Table 1). In addition, collected data was also manually quality checked against a collection of published library spectra for each chemical detected.

Two chemical detections were observed during the mission: 1-butene (CAS 106-98-9) and isobutylene (CAS 115-11-7). These chemicals were detected downwind of the fire on several collection runs. Figure 4a (the site-collected 1-butene spectra) and 4b (the published library spectra) show a confirmation comparison. For the 1-butene detection, the location of the primary spectral feature at  $912\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is in agreement for both spectra. Figures 5a and 5b show a similar agreement for the isobutylene detection in the primary  $890\text{ cm}^{-1}$  spectral feature between the field and library spectra. It should be noted that the ASPECT spectrum is collected at  $16\text{ cm}^{-1}$  resolution while the library spectrum is collected at  $0.5\text{ cm}^{-1}$  resolution.

The locations of chemical detections for the overall mission are shown in Figure 6. The variability observed in the locations of the detections is likely due to the variability of the wind direction. Table 2 provides the maximum concentration estimate observed on the respective data collection runs. Detections were near the detection limits of the system which was 1.2 and 1.5 ppm for 1-butene and isobutylene, respectively.

An upwind run was also collected, during which several isoprene detections were made. No isoprene detections were made downwind of the fire. These detections were most likely a result of vapors migrating in from a nearby source (possibly creosote-treated railroad ties or natural emissions from local trees).



Figure 4a. Field Spectrum, 1-Butene Absorption Peak at 912  $\text{cm}^{-1}$

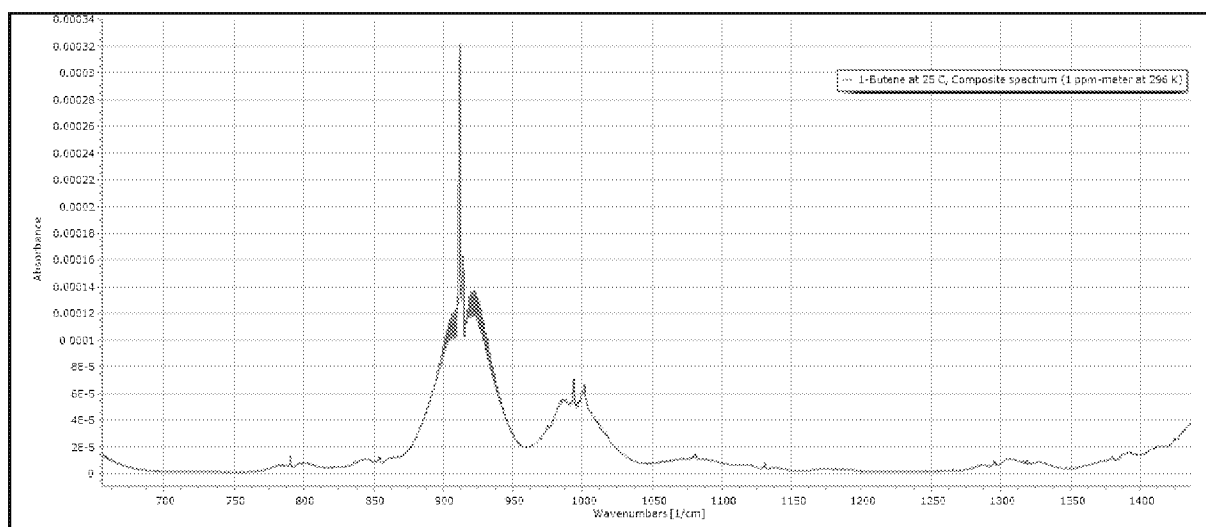


Figure 4b. Library Spectrum, 1-Butene Spectral Peak at 912  $\text{cm}^{-1}$

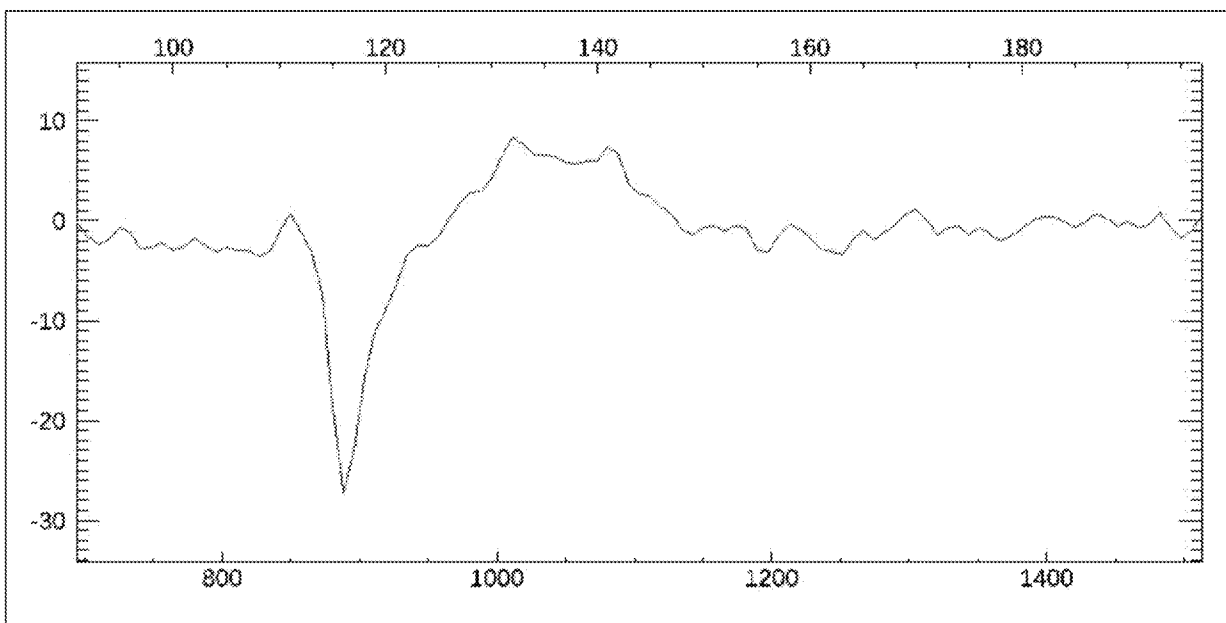


Figure 5a. Field Spectrum, Isobutylene Absorption Peak at  $890\text{ cm}^{-1}$

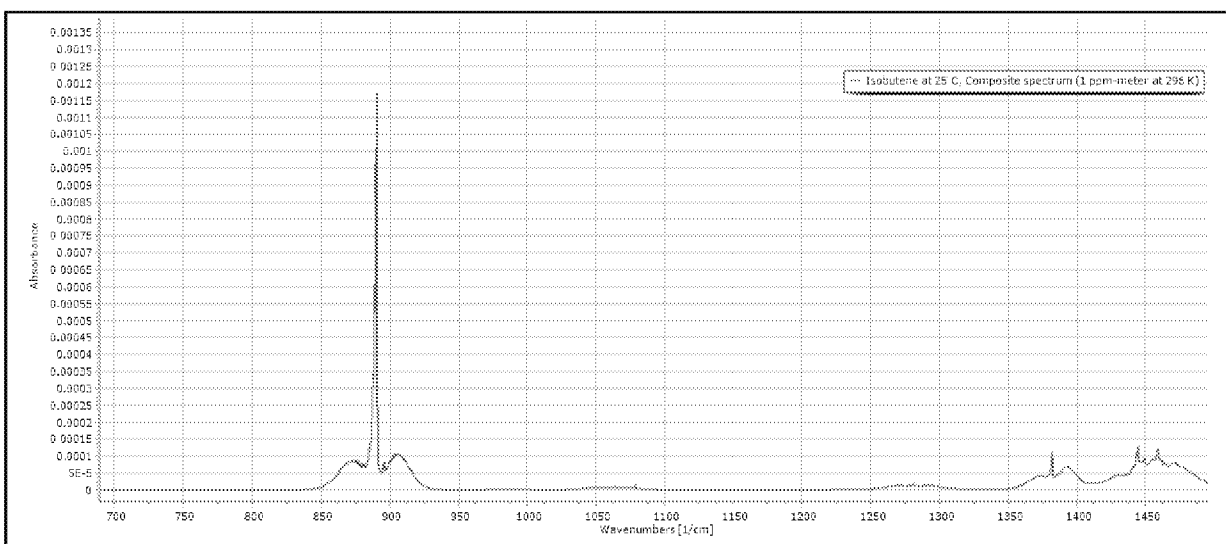


Figure 5b. Library Spectrum, Isobutylene Spectral Peak at  $890\text{ cm}^{-1}$

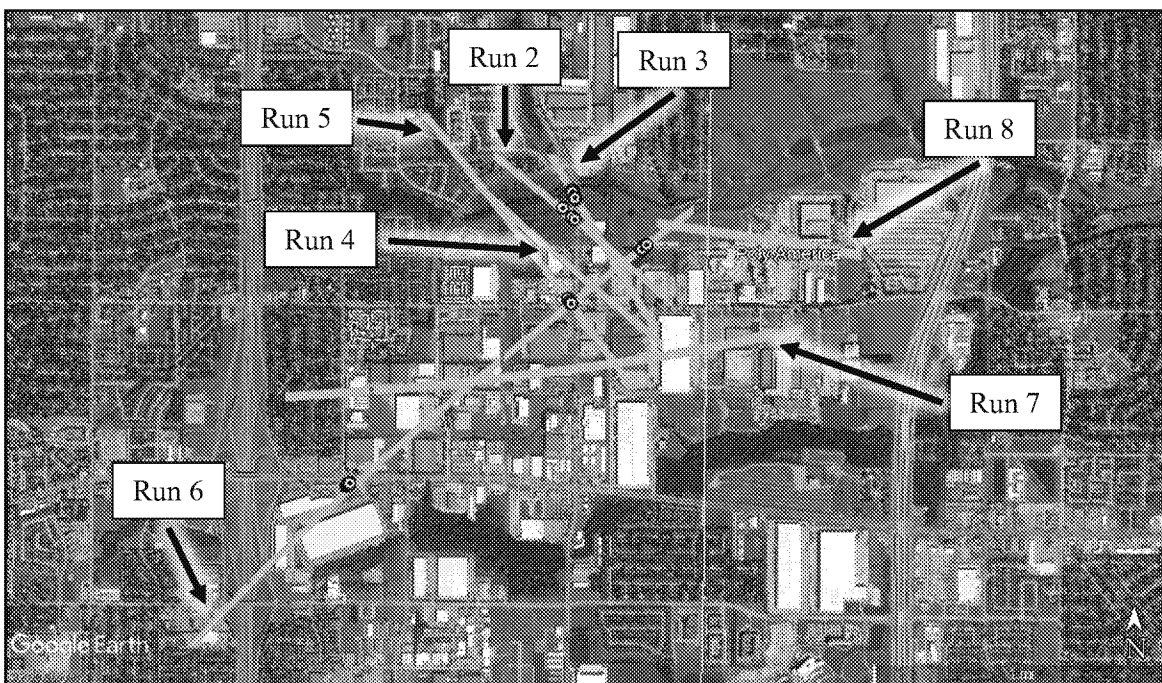


Figure 6. Compound detection locations associated with the Poly-America Fire

**Table 2. Chemical Results Summary**

| Run                      | Date        | Time (UTC) | Chemical                | Max Concentration (ppm) |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1                        | 19 Aug 2020 | 1331       | Test                    | Test                    |
| 2                        |             | 1422       | 1-butene<br>isobutylene | 1.273<br>1.506          |
| 3                        |             | 1428       | 1-butene<br>isobutylene | 1.449<br>1.564          |
| 4                        |             | 1435       | 1-butene                | 1.264                   |
| 5                        |             | 1442       | 1-butene                | 1.356                   |
| 6                        |             | 1456       | 1-butene                | 1.609                   |
| 7                        |             | 1506       | ND                      | None                    |
| 8                        |             | 1529       | ND                      | None                    |
| Note: ND = No Detections |             |            |                         |                         |



## Aerial Photography Results

A full set of high-resolution aerial digital photography were collected as part of the flight. Figure 7 shows a representative image collected as part of each run. This image was collected using the MSIC camera located underneath the plane on data Run 6 after the fire had diminished in intensity. The plume, which is moving to the southwest, still shows a black color with a rapid loft in altitude. Figure 8 shows an oblique image collected northwest of the facility again showing the vertical nature of the smoke plume and the black nature of the emission. This image was collected early in the mission and tends to show low level smoke being generated on the east side of the fire.



Figure 7. MSIC Aerial Image of the Poly-America Fire



Figure 8. Oblique Image of the Poly-America Fire

## Conclusion

On 19 August 2020, ASEPCT was requested by EPA Region 6 to provide air monitoring support for the Poly-America fire. ASPECT conducted a total of 8 data collections, both up and downwind of the fire and collected a full set of FTIR, IRLS, and photographic data on each run. The fire generated a black plume that rose quickly from the site. Data collected flying downwind of the fire showed the presence of 1-butene and isobutylene along many of the runs. The highest concentration of 1-butene detected was 1.449 ppm and for isobutylene 1.564 ppm. Analysis of IRLS imagery showed the characteristic signatures of a hot fire and hot smoke immediately downwind of the fire but showed no evidence of a chemical plume being emitted from the facility.

### Appendix A: File Names of Data Collected During Flight

| Run # | Time (UTC) | Altitude (ft MSL) | Velocity (knots) | MSIC Data Files       | FTIR Data Files       | IRLS Data Files                                    | Gamma Files |
|-------|------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------|
| Run 1 | 13:31:47   | 3614              | 167              | 20200819133156112.jpg | 20200819_133153_A.igm | 2020_08_19_13_31_54_R_01<br>TA=18.8;TB=39.5;Gain=3 | None        |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819133202477.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819133208826.jpg |                       |  |             |
| Run 2 | 14:22:40   | 2554              | 109              | 20200819142246657.jpg | 20200819_142244_A.igm | 2020_08_19_14_22_45_R_02<br>TA=14.6;TB=34.8;Gain=3 | None        |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819142251200.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819142255740.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819142300279.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819142304819.jpg |                       |  |             |
| Run 3 | 14:28:38   | 2498              | 111              | 20200819142844374.jpg | 20200819_142842_A.igm | 2020_08_19_14_28_43_R_03<br>TA=20.6;TB=40.7;Gain=3 | None        |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819142848920.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819142853459.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819142857998.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819142902538.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819142904348.jpg |                       |  |             |
| Run 4 | 14:35:44   | 3423 ft           | 116              | 20200819143550183.jpg | 20200819_143547_A.igm | 2020_08_19_14_35_48_R_04<br>TA=21.0;TB=41.1;Gain=3 | None        |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819143556532.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819143602897.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819143609246.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819143611056.jpg |                       |  |             |

| Run #                 | Time (UTC) | Altitude (ft MSL) | Velocity (knots) | MSIC Data Files  | FTIR Data Files                                | IRLS Data Files                                    | Gamma Files |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------------|------------------|--|--|--|-------------|
| Run 5                 | 14:42:17   | 3401              | 110              | 20200819144223311.jpg<br>20200819144229660.jpg<br>20200819144236009.jpg<br>20200819144242374.jpg<br>20200819144248723.jpg<br>20200819144255983.jpg | 20200819_144221_A.igm                          | 2020_08_19_14_42_22_R_05<br>TA=20.4;TB=40.3;Gain=3 | None        |
| Run 6                 | 14:56:51   | 7885              | 114              | 20200819145657619.jpg  | 20200819_145654_A.igm<br>20200819_145734_A.igm | 2020_08_19_14_56_56_R_06<br>TA=21.9;TB=41.9;Gain=3 | None        |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819145703968.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819145710333.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819145716681.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819145723036.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819145729389.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819145735738.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819145743010.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819145749359.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819145755724.jpg  |  |  |             |
| Run 7                 | 15:06:29   | 7662              | 118              | 20200819150635948.jpg  | 20200819_150633_A.igm                          | 2020_08_19_15_06_34_R_07<br>TA=21.9;TB=41.9;Gain=3 | None        |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819150642313.jpg  | 20200819_150711_A.igm                          |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819150648668.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819150655021.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819150701370.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819150707735.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819150714084.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819150720434.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819150721354.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | Run 8  | 15:29:59                                       |  |             |
| 20200819153010473.jpg |            |                   |                  |  |  |  |             |
| 20200819153014092.jpg |            |                   |                  |  |  |  |             |
| 20200819153018631.jpg |            |                   |                  |  |  |  |             |
| 20200819153023171.jpg |            |                   |                  |  |  |  |             |

## Appendix B: ASPECT Systems

The US EPA ASPECT system collects airborne infrared (IR) images and chemical screening data from a safe distance over the site (about 3,000 ft AGL). The system consists of an airborne high-speed Fourier Transform Infra-Red (FTIR) spectrometer coupled with a wide-area IR Line Scanner (IRLS). The ASPECT IR systems can detect chemical compounds in both the 8 to 12 micron (800 to 1200  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and 3 to 5 micron (2000 to 3200  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) regions. List of chemicals and detection limits are listed in Table 1. The 8 to 12 micron region is typically known as the atmospheric window region since the band is reasonably void of water and carbon dioxide influence. Spectrally, this region is used to detect carbon - non-carbon bonded compounds. The 3 to 5 micron region is also free of water and carbon dioxide but typically does not have sufficient energy for use. This band does show use in high-energy environments such as fires. The carbon - hydrogen stretch is very common in this region.

An Imperx mapping camera (29 mega pixels; mapping focal plane array) is concurrently operated as part of all chemical collections. These images are often digitally processed in lower resolution, so they can be transmitted via satellite communication. All imagery is geo-rectified using both aircraft attitude correction (pitch, yaw, and roll) and GPS positional information. Imagery can be processed while in flight or approximately 600 frames per hour can be processed once the data are downloaded from the aircraft. The high-resolution images (>20 MB each) are pulled from the ASPECT after the sortie and are available at a later time.

All aerial photographic images collected by the ASPECT system are ortho-rectified and geospatially validated by the scientific reach back team. In general, this consists of conducting geo-registration using a USGS Digital Elevation Model (DEM) which promotes superior pixel computation and lessens topographic distortion. The image is checked by the team (using a Google Earth base map) for proper location and rotation.

Airborne radiological measurements are conducted using three fully integrated multi-crystal sodium iodide (NaI) RSX4 gamma ray spectrometers. Each RSX4 spectrometer contains four 4"x2"x16" doped NaI crystals each having an independent photomultiplier/spectrometer assembly. One RSX unit is configured with an additional upward NaI crystal utilized to provide real-time cosmic ray correction. Count and energy data from each crystal and pack is combined using a self-calibrating signal processor to generate a virtual detector output. All radiological spectrometer "packs" are further combined using a signal console controlled by the on-board central computer in the aircraft. Altitude correction data is provided by a radar altimeter with internal GPS systems within the packs serving as a backup. It should be noted that no radiological measurements were conducted on this mission.

Data is processed using automated algorithms onboard the aircraft with preliminary results being sent using a satellite system to the ASPECT scientific reach back team for QA/QC analysis. Upon landing, preliminary data results are examined and validated by the scientific reach back team.

Table 1. ASPECT Automated Compounds

This table contains ASPECT's library of automated compounds.

Detection limits are for each chemical is found in parenthesis in units of parts per million (ppm)

|                             |                               |                            |                              |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Acetic Acid (2.0)           | Cumene (23.1)                 | Isoprene (6.5)             | Phosphine (8.3)              |
| Acetone (5.6)               | Diborane (5.0)                | Isopropanol (8.5)          | Phosphorus Oxychloride (2.0) |
| Acrolein (8.8)              | 1,1-Dichloroethene (3.7)      | Isopropyl Acetate (0.7)    | Propyl Acetate (0.7)         |
| Acrylonitrile (12.5)        | Dichloromethane (6.0)         | MAPP (3.7)                 | Propylene (3.7)              |
| Acrylic Acid (3.3)          | Dichlorodifluoromethane (0.7) | Methyl Acetate (1.0)       | Propylene Oxide (6.8)        |
| Allyl Alcohol (5.3)         | 1,1-Difluoroethane (0.8)      | Methyl Acrylate (1.0)      | Silicon Tetrafluoride (0.2)  |
| Ammonia (2.0)               | Difluoromethane (0.8)         | Methyl Ethyl Ketone (7.5)  | Sulfur Dioxide (15)          |
| Arsine (18.7)               | Ethanol (6.3)                 | Methanol (5.4)             | Sulfur Hexafluoride (0.07)   |
| Bis-Chloroethyl Ether (1.7) | Ethyl Acetate (0.8)           | Methylbromide (60)         | Sulfur Mustard (6.0)         |
| Boron Tribromide (0.2)      | Ethyl Acrylate (0.8)          | Methylene Chloride (1.1)   | Sulfuryl Fluoride (1.5)      |
| Boron Trifluoride (5.6)     | Ethyl Formate (1.0)           | Methyl Methacrylate (3.0)  | Tetrachloroethylene (10)     |
| 1,3-Butadiene (5.0)         | Ethylene (5.0)                | MTEB (3.8)                 | 1,1,1-Trichloroethane (1.9)  |
| 1-Butene (12.0)             | Formic Acid (5.0)             | Naphthalene (3.8)          | Trichloroethylene (2.7)      |
| 2-Butene (18.8)             | Freon 134a (0.8)              | n-Butyl Acetate (3.8)      | Trichloromethane (0.7)       |
| Carbon Tetrachloride (0.2)  | GA (Tabun) (0.7)              | n-Butyl Alcohol (7.9)      | Triethylamine (6.2)          |
| Carbonyl Fluoride (0.8)     | GB (Sarin) (0.5)              | Nitric Acid (5.0)          | Triethylphosphate (0.3)      |
| Carbon Tetrafluoride (0.1)  | Germane (1.5)                 | Nitrogen Mustard (2.5)     | Trimethylamine (9.3)         |
| Chlorodifluoromethane (0.6) | Hexafluoroacetone (0.4)       | Nitrogen Trifluoride (0.7) | Trimethyl Phosphite (0.4)    |
| Chloromethane (12)          | Isobutylene (15)              | Phosgene (0.5)             | Vinyl Acetate (0.6)          |

Message

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**From:** Cook, David [David.Cook@WestonSolutions.com]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 9:50:54 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]; Rauscher, Jon [Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Eric.bay@westonsolutions.com  
**Subject:** RE: Poly-America Fire Response

I am in favor of that. What timeframe works for you?

**David Cook**  
**START R6 IT/Data Management Lead**  
**Weston Solutions, Inc.**  
(469) 666-5505 Direct  
(512) 970-8836 Cell

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:50 PM  
**To:** Cook, David <David.Cook@WestonSolutions.com>; Rauscher, Jon <Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Bay, Eric <Eric.Bay@WestonSolutions.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Poly-America Fire Response

**\*\* External Email \*\***

Let's talk tomorrow

---

**From:** Cook, David <David.Cook@WestonSolutions.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:49 PM  
**To:** Rauscher, Jon <Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov>; Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Eric.bay@westonsolutions.com  
**Subject:** RE: Poly-America Fire Response

Hello Doctor and Matt--

I assume we need a map to accompany this text blurb? Can you have the ASPECT folk send me the typical KML?

Would you like me to throw the roving Air Mon. Data on a map too? If so:

What would the Reporting period be?

What are the analytes we are monitoring and what is the detect/non-detect threshold?

Do we need a quick call?

Thanks,

**David Cook**  
**START R6 IT/Data Management Lead**  
**Weston Solutions, Inc.**  
(469) 666-5505 Direct  
(512) 970-8836 Cell

---

**From:** Rauscher, Jon <Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:13 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>; Turner, Philip <turner.philip@epa.gov>; Hidalgo, Chelsea

<Hidalgo.Chelsea@epa.gov>; Cook, David <David.Cook@WestonSolutions.com>; Cook, Brenda <cook.brenda@epa.gov>

**Subject:** Poly-America Fire Response

**\*\* External Email \*\***

ASPECT:

The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft found detections of isobutylene and 1-butene. ASPECT found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values on August 19, 2020. ASPECT has conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

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Message

---

**From:** Cook, David [David.Cook@WestonSolutions.com]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 9:48:31 PM  
**To:** Rauscher, Jon [Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov]; Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Eric.bay@westonsolutions.com  
**Subject:** RE: Poly-America Fire Response

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**Subject:** Poly-America Fire Response

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Message

---

**From:** loesel.matthew@epa.gov [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 10:52:28 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen [Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 19, 2020, at 5:31 PM, Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov> wrote:

Just following up. Yes. I modified a bit, then sent to EJ. All completed. C

On Aug 19, 2020, at 3:54 PM, Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov> wrote:

Many thanks. Most of the reports I get from yall for externals are called Management Reports. I'm not sure I've done a spot report before. I will have to get clearance, for real, for this to go out.

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:53 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

For you of course

---

**From:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:53 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Is there a Microsoft doc I can work with on this?

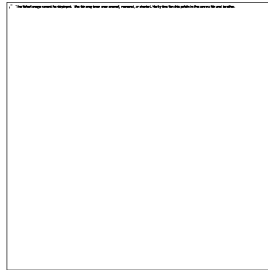
---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:52 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Boynton, Lisa <Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov>; Brooks, Christopher <brooks.christopher@epa.gov>; Burton, Terry <Burton.Terry@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Courtney Hoover <courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov>; Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>; gbrown@hc-inc.net; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Hollier, Alice <Hollier.Alice@epa.gov>; Hope, Ginny <Hope.Ginny@epa.gov>; Irizarry, Gilberto <Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov>; LaBombard, Will <LaBombard.Will@epa.gov>; Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>; Mask, Kendra <Mask.Kendra@epa.gov>; McAtee, Jeffrey <McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; McQueen, Ken <McQueen.Ken@epa.gov>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>; Oh, Peter <Oh.Peter@epa.gov>; Paisley, Eric

<Paisley.Eric@epa.gov>; R6 Deputy Division Directors  
<R6\_Deputy\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 Division Directors  
<R6\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 OSC <R6\_OSC@epa.gov>; Smith, Monica  
<smith.monica@epa.gov>; Spiers, Brett <spiers.brett@epa.gov>; Stevens, Bill  
<stevens.bill@epa.gov>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane  
<Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Tanimura, Erin <Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov>; Tate, Samuel  
<Tate.Samuel@epa.gov>; Tatum, Stephen <Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov>; Taylor, Jillianne  
<Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov>; Thompson, Henry <Thompson.Henry@epa.gov>;  
Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Williams, Latrice  
<Williams.Latrice@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>;  
klindley@hc-inc.net

**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

### US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date:** 8/19/2020

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring.

TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) approximate half a mile to a mile

southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM<sub>10</sub> is 150 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H<sub>2</sub>S, and O<sub>2</sub>). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** The EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EOA START also visited the North Cottonwood Creek and reported that an earthen dam was constructed and a Vac Truck was on site. There was no sheening in the creek, just ash and foam. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>  
<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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*Matthew Loesel*

*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (6SED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*

Message

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F2136F67BD8644149EF4883722E4DA9A-LOESEL, MATT]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 9:13:56 PM  
**To:** Carroll, Craig [Carroll.Craig@epa.gov]; Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

A typo...

---

**From:** Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:13 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>; Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

What is EOA START?

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:12 PM  
**To:** Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

I do not, I will reach out to TCEQ and see if they talked to them about that. WE are in Hotwash now

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**From:** Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:11 PM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Bryant, per our discussion, please contact Wilma and see if we can pilot the 3rd Party Review Process.

Matt, see question on foam. Do we have any information on that?

---

**From:** Stenger, Wren <stenger.wren@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:02 PM  
**To:** Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Price, Lisa <Price.Lisa@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Did the fire-fighting foam used include PFAS? Also, Lisa suggested that this be a pilot for Wilma and our 3<sup>rd</sup> party reviewer.

**WREN STENGER**  
**DIRECTOR, SUPERFUND AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
**EPA REGION 6 DALLAS, TEXAS**  
**214.685.6583**

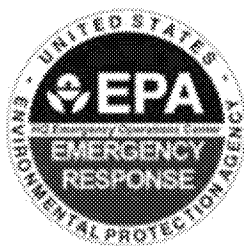
**From:** Loesel, Matthew <[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:52 PM

**To:** Assunto, Carmen <[Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov](mailto:Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov)>; Blanco, Arturo <[Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov](mailto:Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov)>; Boynton, Lisa <[Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov](mailto:Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov)>; Brooks, Christopher <[brooks.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:brooks.christopher@epa.gov)>; Burton, Terry <[Burton.Terry@epa.gov](mailto:Burton.Terry@epa.gov)>; Carroll, Craig <[Carroll.Craig@epa.gov](mailto:Carroll.Craig@epa.gov)>; Courtney Hoover <[courtney\\_hoover@ios.doi.gov](mailto:courtney_hoover@ios.doi.gov)>; Eoc, Epahq <[Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov](mailto:Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov)>; gbrown@hc-inc.net; Gray, David <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>; Hollier, Alice <[Hollier.Alice@epa.gov](mailto:Hollier.Alice@epa.gov)>; Hope, Ginny <[Hope.Ginny@epa.gov](mailto:Hope.Ginny@epa.gov)>; Irizarry, Gilberto <[Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov](mailto:Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov)>; LaBombard, Will <[LaBombard.Will@epa.gov](mailto:LaBombard.Will@epa.gov)>; Martin, John <[martin.john@epa.gov](mailto:martin.john@epa.gov)>; Mask, Kendra <[Mask.Kendra@epa.gov](mailto:Mask.Kendra@epa.gov)>; McAtee, Jeffrey <[McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov)>; McQueen, Ken <[McQueen.Ken@epa.gov](mailto:McQueen.Ken@epa.gov)>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <[Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov](mailto:Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov)>; Oh, Peter <[Oh.Peter@epa.gov](mailto:Oh.Peter@epa.gov)>; Paisley, Eric <[Paisley.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Paisley.Eric@epa.gov)>; R6 Deputy Division Directors <[R6\\_Deputy\\_Division\\_Directors@epa.gov](mailto:R6_Deputy_Division_Directors@epa.gov)>; R6 Division Directors <[R6\\_Division\\_Directors@epa.gov](mailto:R6_Division_Directors@epa.gov)>; R6 OSC <[R6\\_OSC@epa.gov](mailto:R6_OSC@epa.gov)>; Smith, Monica <[smith.monica@epa.gov](mailto:smith.monica@epa.gov)>; Spiers, Brett <[spiers.brett@epa.gov](mailto:spiers.brett@epa.gov)>; Stevens, Bill <[stevens.bill@epa.gov](mailto:stevens.bill@epa.gov)>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane <[Taheri.Diane@epa.gov](mailto:Taheri.Diane@epa.gov)>; Tanimura, Erin <[Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov](mailto:Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov)>; Tate, Samuel <[Tate.Samuel@epa.gov](mailto:Tate.Samuel@epa.gov)>; Tatum, Stephen <[Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov](mailto:Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov)>; Taylor, Jillianne <[Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov](mailto:Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov)>; Thompson, Henry <[Thompson.Henry@epa.gov](mailto:Thompson.Henry@epa.gov)>; Thompson, Steve <[thompson.steve@epa.gov](mailto:thompson.steve@epa.gov)>; Williams, Latrice <[Williams.Latrice@epa.gov](mailto:Williams.Latrice@epa.gov)>; Assunto, Carmen <[Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov](mailto:Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov)>; klindley@hc-inc.net

**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

### US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date:** 8/19/2020

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring.

TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m3) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150 µg/m3. No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H2S, and O2). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

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*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (6SED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*

Message

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**From:** Carroll, Craig [Carroll.Craig@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 9:13:17 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]; Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
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**DIRECTOR, SUPERFUND AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
**EPA REGION 6 DALLAS, TEXAS**  
**214.665.6583**

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<Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>; Oh, Peter <Oh.Peter@epa.gov>; Paisley, Eric <Paisley.Eric@epa.gov>; R6 Deputy Division Directors <R6\_Deputy\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 Division Directors <R6\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 OSC <R6\_OSC@epa.gov>; Smith, Monica <smith.monica@epa.gov>; Spiers, Brett <spiers.brett@epa.gov>; Stevens, Bill <stevens.bill@epa.gov>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Tanimura, Erin <Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov>; Tates, Samuel <Tates.Samuel@epa.gov>; Tatum, Stephen <Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov>; Taylor, Jillianne <Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov>; Thompson, Henry <Thompson.Henry@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Williams, Latrice <Williams.Latrice@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; klindley@hc-inc.net

**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date:** 8/19/2020

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

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**EPA Actions:** The EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie,

Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

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**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>  
<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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*Matthew Loesel*

*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (65ED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*

Message

---

**From:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 8:53:52 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

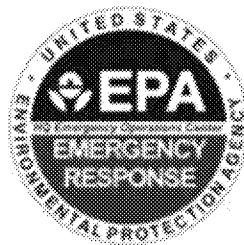
Thanks,

B

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:52 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Boynton, Lisa <Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov>; Brooks, Christopher <brooks.christopher@epa.gov>; Burton, Terry <Burton.Terry@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Courtney Hoover <courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov>; Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>; gbrown@hc-inc.net; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Hollier, Alice <Hollier.Alice@epa.gov>; Hope, Ginny <Hope.Ginny@epa.gov>; Irizarry, Gilberto <Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov>; LaBombard, Will <LaBombard.Will@epa.gov>; Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>; Mask, Kendra <Mask.Kendra@epa.gov>; McAtee, Jeffrey <McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; McQueen, Ken <McQueen.Ken@epa.gov>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>; Oh, Peter <Oh.Peter@epa.gov>; Paisley, Eric <Paisley.Eric@epa.gov>; R6 Deputy Division Directors <R6\_Deputy\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 Division Directors <R6\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 OSC <R6\_OSC@epa.gov>; Smith, Monica <smith.monica@epa.gov>; Spiers, Brett <spiers.brett@epa.gov>; Stevens, Bill <stevens.bill@epa.gov>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Tanimura, Erin <Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov>; Tate, Samuel <Tate.Samuel@epa.gov>; Tatum, Stephen <Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov>; Taylor, Jillianne <Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov>; Thompson, Henry <Thompson.Henry@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Williams, Latrice <Williams.Latrice@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; klindley@hc-inc.net  
**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out

sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring.

TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H2S, and O2). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** The EPAs Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EOA START also visited the North Cottonwood Creek and reported that an earthen dam was constructed and a Vac Truck was on site. There was no sheening in the creek, just ash and foam. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>  
<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (6SED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)

Message

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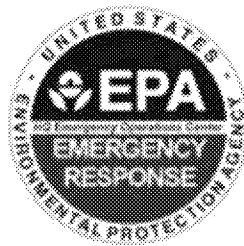
**From:** Assunto, Carmen [Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 8:52:47 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Is there a Microsoft doc I can work with on this?

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:52 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Boynton, Lisa <Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov>; Brooks, Christopher <brooks.christopher@epa.gov>; Burton, Terry <Burton.Terry@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Courtney Hoover <courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov>; Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>; gbrown@hc-inc.net; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Hollier, Alice <Hollier.Alice@epa.gov>; Hope, Ginny <Hope.Ginny@epa.gov>; Irizarry, Gilberto <Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov>; LaBombard, Will <LaBombard.Will@epa.gov>; Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>; Mask, Kendra <Mask.Kendra@epa.gov>; McAtee, Jeffrey <McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; McQueen, Ken <McQueen.Ken@epa.gov>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>; Oh, Peter <Oh.Peter@epa.gov>; Paisley, Eric <Paisley.Eric@epa.gov>; R6 Deputy Division Directors <R6\_Deputy\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 Division Directors <R6\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 OSC <R6\_OSC@epa.gov>; Smith, Monica <smith.monica@epa.gov>; Spiers, Brett <spiers.brett@epa.gov>; Stevens, Bill <stevens.bill@epa.gov>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Tanimura, Erin <Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov>; Tate, Samuel <Tate.Samuel@epa.gov>; Tatum, Stephen <Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov>; Taylor, Jillianne <Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov>; Thompson, Henry <Thompson.Henry@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Williams, Latrice <Williams.Latrice@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; klindley@hc-inc.net  
**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

### US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date:** 8/19/2020

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area.

Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring. TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H2S, and O2). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** The EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

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<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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*Matthew Loesel*

*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (65ED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

loesel.matthew@epa.gov



Message

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**From:** Cindy Mendez [Cmendez@GPTX.org]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 8:26:08 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Poly-America Fire Response

Thank you!

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:23 PM  
**To:** Cindy Mendez <Cmendez@GPTX.org>; d.ringhauser@gptx.org  
**Subject:** Poly-America Fire Response

Please see the following message regarding the preliminary data from our overflight this morning.

The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft found detections of isobutylene and 1-butene. ASPECT found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values on August 19, 2020. ASPECT has conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

If you have any questions or additional needs or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

***Matthew Loesel***  
***U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator***  
*1201 Elm Street*  
*Suite 500 (65ED-EC)*  
*Dallas, Texas 75270*  
*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*  
*(214) 665 8544 (office)*  
[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)

Message

---

**From:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 7:21:44 PM  
**To:** Rauscher, Jon [Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Preliminary Poly-America Fire Response  
**Attachments:** Poly America Fire Brief Summary.pdf; Poly America Fire Brief Summary.docx

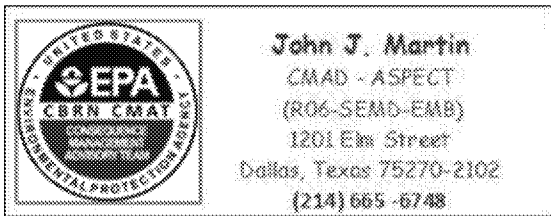
FYSA

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**From:** Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 1:36 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>; Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Taylor, Jillianne <Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>; Kaelin, Lawrence <Kaelin.Lawrence@epa.gov>; Perovich, Gina <Perovich.Gina@epa.gov>; Waltzer, Sam <Waltzer.Sam@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Preliminary Poly-America Fire Response

Here's our Preliminary Brief Report. A more formal report will be forthcoming.

Any questions or anything we can help with, let us know---jjm



Preliminary Poly-America Fire Response  
Grand Prairie, Texas  
August 19, 2020

On August 19, 2020, ASPECT was activated at 7:25am to respond to a fire occurring at a Poly-America Plastics Plant (coordinate location: 32.7220, -97.0238) in Grand Prairie, Texas. To support the Poly-America fire a total of 8 data collection runs (1 test and 7 site passes) were made. Collection altitudes were variable from 1800 ft AGL up to 4900 ft AGL due to restrictions from the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport Air Traffic Control Center. Chemical detections from the Poly-America fire included isobutylene and 1-butene. These detected compounds are consistent with those encountered with fires involving plastics. Plume concentration estimates are shown in the table below. There were no detections upwind. Locations of the flight lines and detections are given in Figure 1.

| Chemical Detected | Estimated Concentration |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Isobutylene       | 1.5 ppm                 |
| 1-butene          | 1.3 ppm                 |

Although two chemicals were detected, this does not exclude other chemicals that may be present at the site. ASPECT autodetects from a list of 78 chemicals. Further analysis from a library with over 500 chemicals not included in the autodetect list can be conducted during post-processing.

The fire was located on the north side of the facility along the rail line and involved what appears to be stored plastic stock. In Figure 2, an oblique image of the fire (collected from the northwest) shows the location of the fire in reference to the facility and the rapid rise of the plume being generated. Figure 3 shows a downward aerial image on the east side of the fire. As with the oblique, the plume can be observed rapidly climbing with some low level emissions present.

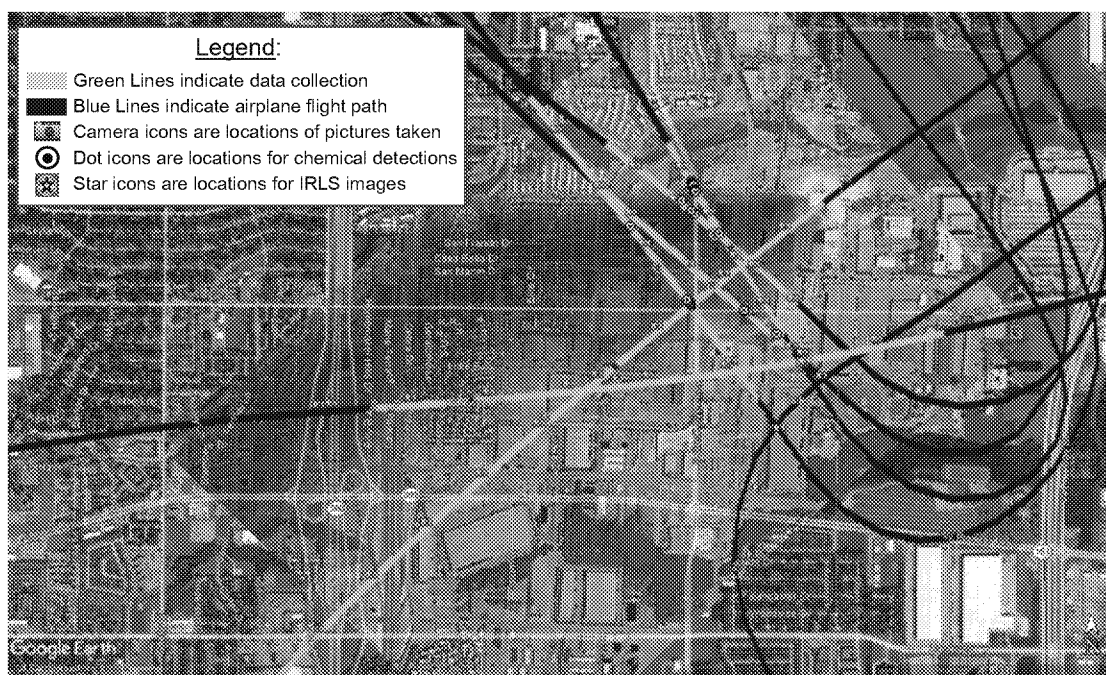


Figure 1. Flight lines (blue), data collection passes (green) and detection points (black dots) for the Poly-America Fire.



Figure 2. Oblique Image of the Poly-America Fire

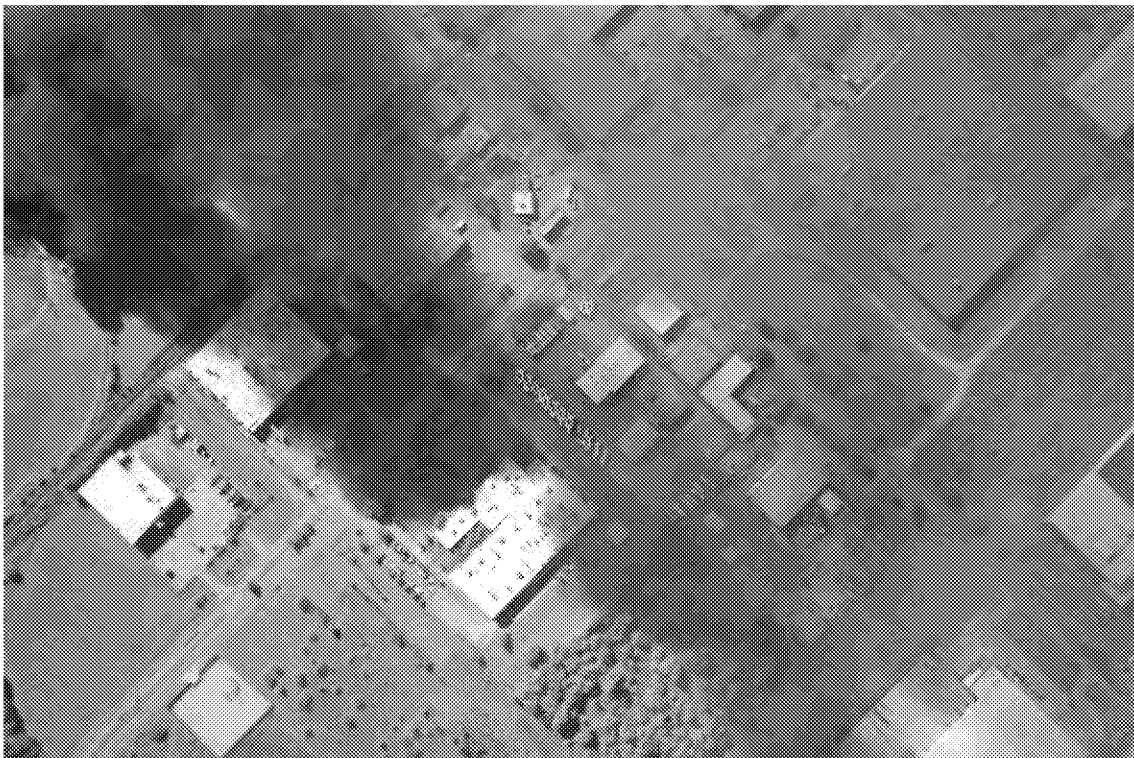


Figure 3. Aerial Image of the Poly-America Fire

Preliminary Poly-America Fire Response  
Grand Prairie, Texas  
August 19, 2020

On August 19, 2020, ASPECT was activated at 7:25am to respond to a fire occurring at a Poly-America Plastics Plant (coordinate location: 32.7220, -97.0238) in Grand Prairie, Texas. To support the Poly-America fire a total of 8 data collection runs (1 test and 7 site passes) were made. Collection altitudes were variable from 1800 ft AGL up to 4900 ft AGL due to restrictions from the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport Air Traffic Control Center. Chemical detections from the Poly-America fire included isobutylene and 1-butene. These detected compounds are consistent with those encountered with fires involving plastics. Plume concentration estimates are shown in the table below. There were no detections upwind. Locations of the flight lines and detections are given in Figure 1.

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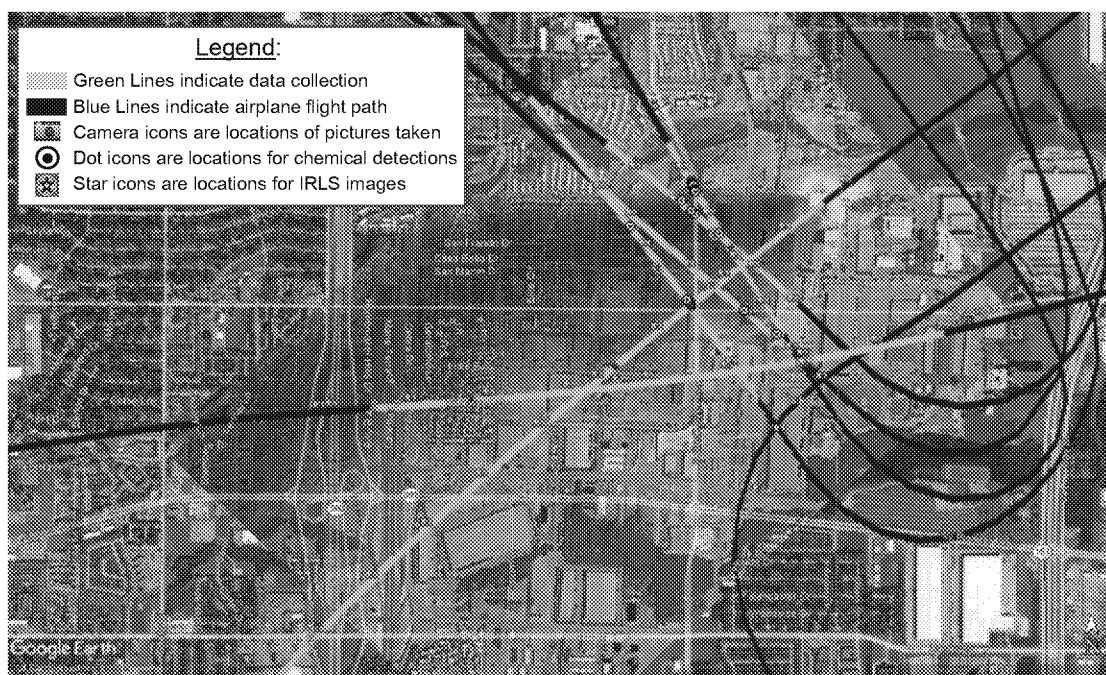


Figure 1. Flight lines (blue), data collection passes (green) and detection points (black dots) for the Poly-America Fire.

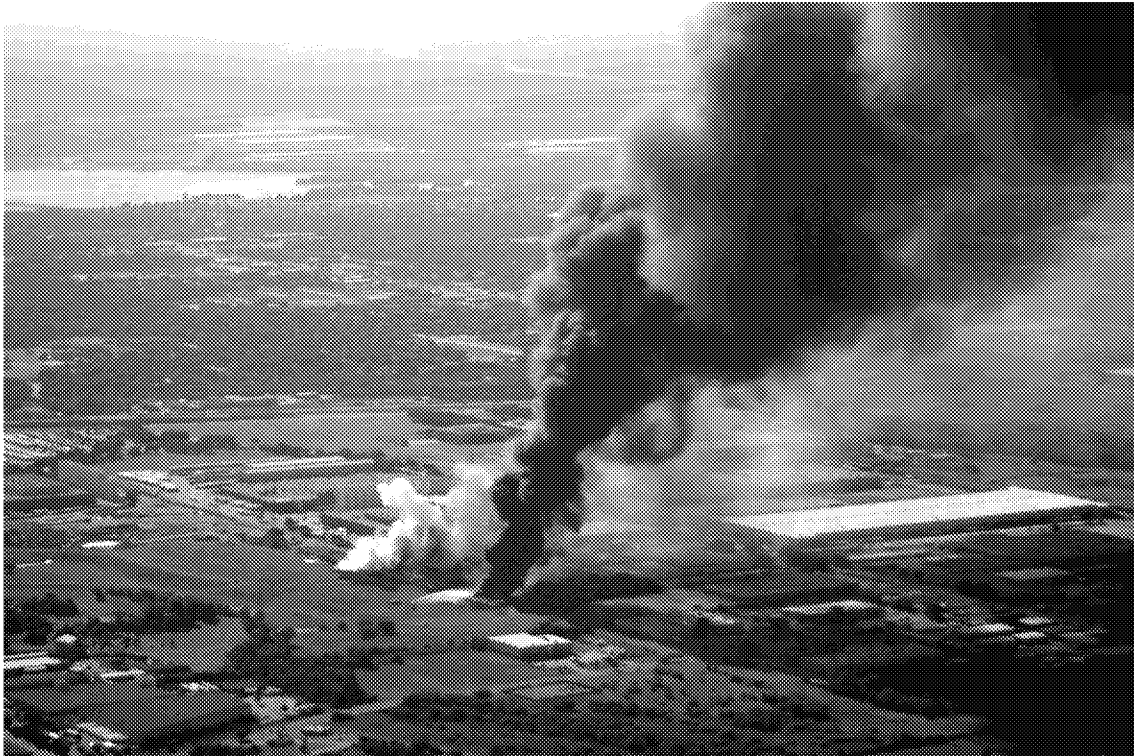


Figure 2. Oblique Image of the Poly-America Fire

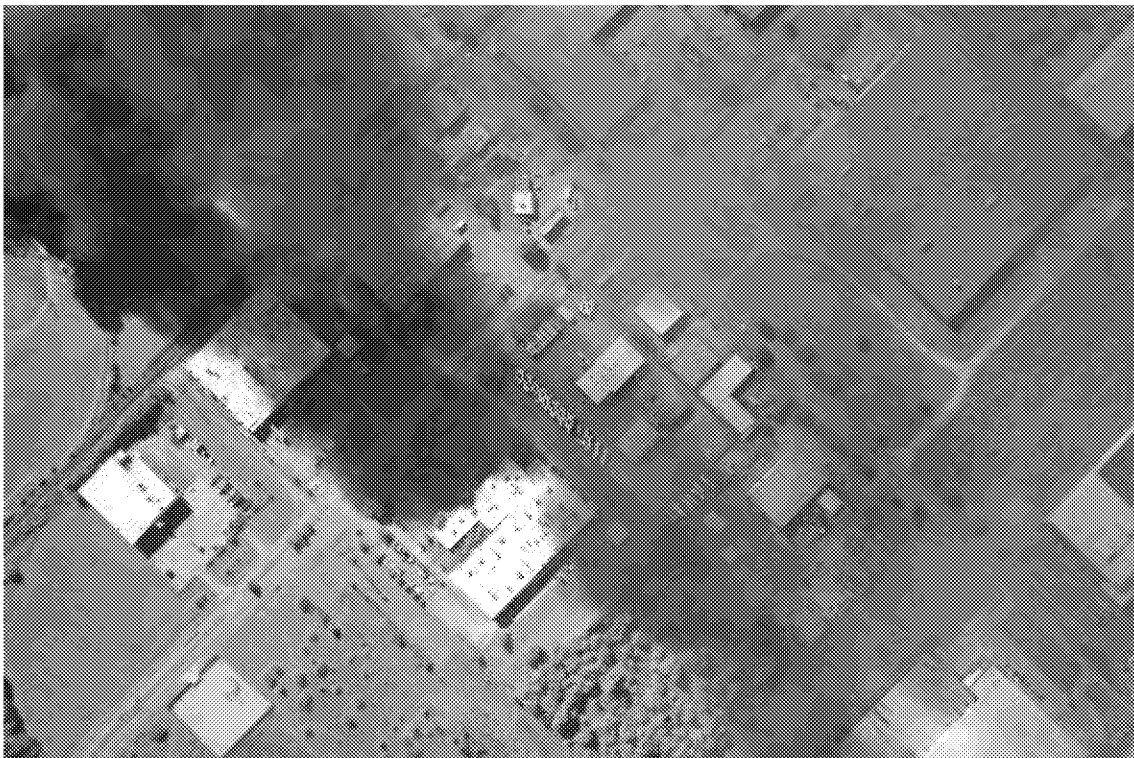


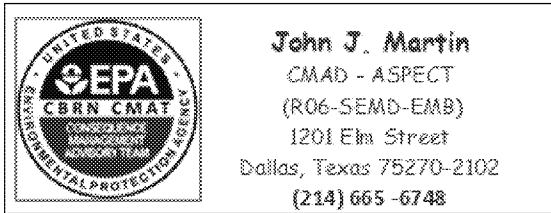
Figure 3. Aerial Image of the Poly-America Fire

Message

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**From:** Martin, John [martin.john@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 6:36:18 PM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

Just forwarded it



---

**From:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 1:19 PM  
**To:** Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

John – do you have an ETA on a report? Or Preliminary data? Our EU is asking.

B

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:57 AM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

Yes

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**From:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:56 AM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

This was the R6 Response Notify group?

B

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:29 AM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

Not sure who has control of groups

**From:** Greg Brown <[gbrown@hc-inc.net](mailto:gbrown@hc-inc.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:27 AM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

Matt,

Please add [klindley@hc-inc.net](mailto:klindley@hc-inc.net) (Kyle) to you email distribution list please. He is the new warehouse manager at the Addison Facility.

Respectfully,

Greg Brown, Corporate Portfolio Manager

HCI | integrated solutions

15310 Amberly Drive, Suite 250 | Tampa, Florida 33647

(m) 910.988.8749 | (t) 703.537.3151

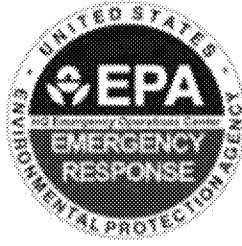
(e) [gbrown@hc-inc.net](mailto:gbrown@hc-inc.net) | (w) <http://www.hc-inc.net>

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:21 AM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen <[Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov](mailto:Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov)>; Blanco, Arturo <[Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov](mailto:Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov)>; Boynton, Lisa <[Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov](mailto:Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov)>; Brooks, Christopher <[brooks.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:brooks.christopher@epa.gov)>; Burton, Terry <[Burton.Terry@epa.gov](mailto:Burton.Terry@epa.gov)>; Carroll, Craig <[Carroll.Craig@epa.gov](mailto:Carroll.Craig@epa.gov)>; Courtney Hoover <[courtney\\_hoover@ios.doi.gov](mailto:courtney_hoover@ios.doi.gov)>; Eoc, Epahq <[Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov](mailto:Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov)>; Greg Brown <[gbrown@hc-inc.net](mailto:gbrown@hc-inc.net)>; Gray, David <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>; Hollier, Alice <[Hollier.Alice@epa.gov](mailto:Hollier.Alice@epa.gov)>; Hope, Ginny <[Hope.Ginny@epa.gov](mailto:Hope.Ginny@epa.gov)>; Irizarry, Gilberto <[Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov](mailto:Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov)>; LaBombard, Will <[LaBombard.Will@epa.gov](mailto:LaBombard.Will@epa.gov)>; Martin, John <[martin.john@epa.gov](mailto:martin.john@epa.gov)>; Mask, Kendra <[Mask.Kendra@epa.gov](mailto:Mask.Kendra@epa.gov)>; McAtee, Jeffrey <[McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov)>; McQueen, Ken <[McQueen.Ken@epa.gov](mailto:McQueen.Ken@epa.gov)>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <[Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov](mailto:Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov)>; Oh, Peter <[Oh.Peter@epa.gov](mailto:Oh.Peter@epa.gov)>; Paisley, Eric <[Paisley.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Paisley.Eric@epa.gov)>; R6 Deputy Division Directors <[R6\\_Deputy\\_Division\\_Directors@epa.gov](mailto:R6_Deputy_Division_Directors@epa.gov)>; R6 Division Directors <[R6\\_Division\\_Directors@epa.gov](mailto:R6_Division_Directors@epa.gov)>; R6 OSC <[R6\\_OSC@epa.gov](mailto:R6_OSC@epa.gov)>; Smith, Monica <[smith.monica@epa.gov](mailto:smith.monica@epa.gov)>; Spiers, Brett <[spiers.brett@epa.gov](mailto:spiers.brett@epa.gov)>; Stevens, Bill <[stevens.bill@epa.gov](mailto:stevens.bill@epa.gov)>; [susan\\_king@ios.doi.gov](mailto:susan_king@ios.doi.gov) <[susan\\_king@ios.doi.gov](mailto:susan_king@ios.doi.gov)>; Taheri, Diane <[Taheri.Diane@epa.gov](mailto:Taheri.Diane@epa.gov)>; Tanimura, Erin <[Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov](mailto:Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov)>; Tates, Samuel <[Tates.Samuel@epa.gov](mailto:Tates.Samuel@epa.gov)>; Tatum, Stephen <[Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov](mailto:Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov)>; Taylor, Jillianne <[Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov](mailto:Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov)>; Thompson, Henry <[Thompson.Henry@epa.gov](mailto:Thompson.Henry@epa.gov)>; Thompson, Steve <[thompson.steve@epa.gov](mailto:thompson.steve@epa.gov)>; Williams, Latrice <[Williams.Latrice@epa.gov](mailto:Williams.Latrice@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

**US Environmental Protection Agency**

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 10:19 AM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie will likely continue to burn throughout the day and tomorrow. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility; it's believed that two rail cars are burning. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** Local fire departments have deployed to the site and are fighting the fire. In addition the City of Grand Prairie has an environmental contractor ready as needed. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has deployed personnel as well as their contractor to engage in ground level air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** Based on a request from Grand Prairie, the EPA ASPECT plane has been activated and will fly the scene and plume as soon as flight restrictions from the near-by DFW airport are worked through.

In addition, the START contractor has been activated to assist in air monitoring in the local area. EPA Phone Duty Officer will continue to monitor the situation and remain in contact with the City of Grand Prairie and the State of Texas.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wbap.com/2020/08/19/breaking-massive-fire-at-poly-america-plant-in-grand-prairie-threatens-businesses/>  
<https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*loesel.matthew@epa.gov*

Message

---

**From:** Assunto, Carmen [Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 8:54:33 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Many thanks. Most of the reports I get from yall for externals are called Management Reports. I'm not sure I've done a spot report before. I will have to get clearance, for real, for this to go out.

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:53 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

For you of course

---

**From:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:53 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Is there a Microsoft doc I can work with on this?

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:52 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Boynton, Lisa <Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov>; Brooks, Christopher <brooks.christopher@epa.gov>; Burton, Terry <Burton.Terry@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Courtney Hoover <courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov>; Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>; gbrown@hc-inc.net; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Hollier, Alice <Hollier.Alice@epa.gov>; Hope, Ginny <Hope.Ginny@epa.gov>; Irizarry, Gilberto <Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov>; LaBombard, Will <LaBombard.Will@epa.gov>; Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>; Mask, Kendra <Mask.Kendra@epa.gov>; McAtee, Jeffrey <McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; McQueen, Ken <McQueen.Ken@epa.gov>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>; Oh, Peter <Oh.Peter@epa.gov>; Paisley, Eric <Paisley.Eric@epa.gov>; R6 Deputy Division Directors <R6\_Deputy\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 Division Directors <R6\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 OSC <R6\_OSC@epa.gov>; Smith, Monica <smith.monica@epa.gov>; Spiers, Brett <spiers.brett@epa.gov>; Stevens, Bill <stevens.bill@epa.gov>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Tanimura, Erin <Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov>; Tate, Samuel <Tate.Samuel@epa.gov>; Tatum, Stephen <Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov>; Taylor, Jillianne <Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov>; Thompson, Henry <Thompson.Henry@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Williams, Latrice <Williams.Latrice@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; klindley@hc-inc.net  
**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

### US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring.

TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H<sub>2</sub>S, and O<sub>2</sub>). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** The EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EOA START also visited the North Cottonwood Creek and reported that an earthen dam was constructed and a Vac Truck was on site. There was no sheening in the creek, just ash and foam. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

**Media Interest: High**

**Media Links:** <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>  
<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*

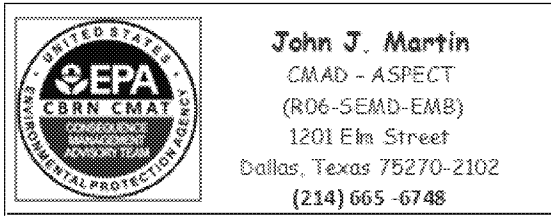
Message

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**From:** Martin, John [martin.john@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/27/2020 1:42:25 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: QAPP for ASPECT deployment?

Did START produce a QAPP for this ER or plan to submit one in final report? Can I get a copy of the START and QAPP? Apparently we fall under the region's QAPP for ERs.

Thanks



---

**From:** Nichols, Nick <Nichols.Nick@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 1:05 PM  
**To:** Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** QAPP for ASPECT deployment?

Hi John

OEM has an agreement that a QAPP be sent to QM by 30 days after deployment. Usually the OSC/regional response team develops this incident specific QAPP.  
Do you know if one was done for this?

**ASPECT Support to Region 6 for Poly-America Fire Response**

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, CMAD's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) was deployed by EPA Region 6 in response to the Poly-America Fire in Grand Prairie, Texas. The aircraft conducted a survey of the site collecting data that included chemical identification and quantification, geo-located surveillance photos, and infrared imaging. The screening-level results from ASPECT were compared to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and no exceedances were found of the short-term AMCVs for the detected chemicals of isobutylene and 1-butene.  
(POC is John Martin [martin.john@epa.gov](mailto:martin.john@epa.gov), 214-789-1994)

Thanks

William Nichols (Nick)  
EPA Office of Emergency Management  
Tribal/EJ Coordinator, FCO, Timekeeper, Bank Card Holder, Quality and Records Manager  
202-564-1970

Message

---

**From:** King, Susan E [susan\_king@ios.doi.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 3:25:26 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Orsak, Erik [erik\_orsak@fws.gov]; Ruffino, Denise [denise\_ruffino@fws.gov]; Courtney Hoover [courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov]; Scida, Pasquale J [pasquale\_scida@ios.doi.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

Matthew,

I'd sent the NRC notification on to FWS and then this spot report- to Erik Orsak and Denise Ruffino, our contaminants biologists. They're the go-to folks as to whether FWS resources are affected; I just thought I should close the loop with you that we've received.

Susan King

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 19, 2020, at 8:22 AM, Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov> wrote:

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

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<image003.jpg>

## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

**US Environmental Protection Agency**

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 10:19 AM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie will likely continue to burn throughout the day and tomorrow. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility; it's believed that two rail cars are burning. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power

lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** Local fire departments have deployed to the site and are fighting the fire. In addition the City of Grand Prairie has an environmental contractor ready as needed. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has deployed personnel as well as their contractor to engage in ground level air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** Based on a request from Grand Prairie, the EPA ASPECT plane has been activated and will fly the scene and plume as soon as flight restrictions from the near-by DFW airport are worked through.

In addition, the START contractor has been activated to assist in air monitoring in the local area. EPA Phone Duty Officer will continue to monitor the situation and remain in contact with the City of Grand Prairie and the State of Texas.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wbap.com/2020/08/19/breaking-massive-fire-at-poly-america-plant-in-grand-prairie-threatens-businesses/>  
<https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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Message

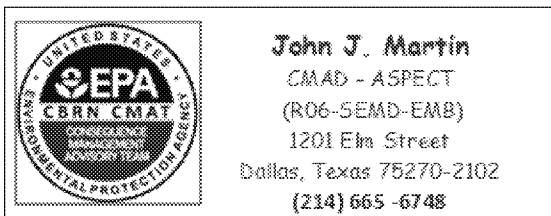
---

**From:** Martin, John [martin.john@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/21/2020 9:48:07 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]; Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Taylor, Jillianne [Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov]; Nguyen, Lyndsey [Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov]; Kaelin, Lawrence [Kaelin.Lawrence@epa.gov]; Perovich, Gina [Perovich.Gina@epa.gov]; Waltzer, Sam [Waltzer.Sam@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: R6 Poly-America Fire Response Report  
**Attachments:** ASPECT Summary Poly America Fire 21 Aug 2020.pdf; ASPECT Summary Poly America Fire 21 Aug 2020.docx

Matt and Bryant,

Here's the draft Final Report for the Poly-America Fire. We made some changes to the typical report format. Let's know what you think or if there are edits/comments/other files that you would like to include for the final Final.

Have a great weekend---jjm



# Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology

## Poly-America Fire Report

Grand Prairie, Texas  
19 August 2020



### **ASPECT Mission Supporting:**

Matthew Loesel  
Region 6 On-Scene Coordinator

### **Initial Mission Request by:**

Bryant Smalley  
Region 6 Section Chief  
Readiness & Emergency Response Section

### **ASPECT TEAM**

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#### **Jill Taylor**

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#### **Lyndsey Nguyen**

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Nguyen.Lyndsey@EPA.gov  
702-373-3756

## Table of Contents

[ TOC \o "1-3" \h \z \u ]

## **Acronyms and Abbreviations**

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Alt     | Altitude (in feet)                                      |
| AGL     | Above Ground Level                                      |
| cm      | centimeter  |
| CST     | Central Standard Time                                   |
| DFW     | Dallas—Forth Worth International Airport                |
| DEM     | Digital Elevation Model                                 |
| Digital | Digital photography file from the Nikon D2X camera      |
| ft      | feet  |
| FTIR    | Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer                 |
| igm     | Spectral data format based on grams format              |
| IR      | Infrared  |
| IRLS    | Infrared Line Scanner                                   |
| jpg     | JPEG image format                                       |
| kts     | knots   |
| mph     | miles per hour  |
| m/s     | meters per second                                       |
| MSIC    | Digital photography file from the Imperx mapping camera |
| MSL     | Mean Sea Level Altitude (in feet)                       |
| ppm     | parts per million                                       |
| UTC     | Universal Time Coordinated                              |

# **Field Report for Airborne Data Collected In Support of US EPA Region VI Poly-America Fire Response 19 August 2020**

## **Background and Operational Overview**

On 19 August 2020 a fire developed at the Poly-America Plastics facility located near Grand Prairie, TX. Officials reported that the fire began around midnight Wednesday morning in an area north of the facility along the rail line. At the time of the ASPECT activation, some reports indicated that two rail cars may be impacted in addition to a collection of pallets on the north side of the rail spur. Poly-America Plastics facility lies within the northwest corner of the intersection of SH-303/West Pioneer Parkway and SH-161/President George Bush Turnpike. The geographical coordinates for the facility are 32.7220N, 97.0363W (Figure 1).

U.S. EPA Region VI requested for the ASPECT system to be deployed to provide monitoring support on 19 August 2020. The order to launch the aircraft was given at approximately 0715 CST, and the aircraft was airborne at 0810 CST. Upon arrival, the ASPECT aircraft faced air space challenges because the site was in the approach path for DFW airport. With the help of Regional coordination, the ASPECT plane was granted access to fly in brief intervals at specific altitudes per orders of DFW Air Traffic Control. ASPECT completed the first of 8 runs at 0922 CST. Only one mission was needed for the incident. This report summarizes the findings observed during the flight mission.



Figure 1: Location of Poly-America Facility in Grand Prairie, TX

## General Mission Objectives

Once granted access to fly over the site, the following general mission objectives are employed in conducting emergency response data collection with ASPECT:

1. To capture an overall, situational awareness of the incident using aerial photography with:
  - Oblique camera—photos taken by hand from the view/position of the co-pilot, and
  - MSIC photos—advanced camera housed underneath the plane for a top-down view of the incident
2. To qualitatively characterize and locate both the visible and non-visible components of the plume, as well as which areas are on fire:
  - Using the Infrared Line Scanner (IRLS)
3. To screen for the presence and location of specific chemicals within ASPECT's chemical library:
  - Using the Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) Spectrometer

## Flight Conditions and Status

### Weather and Site Conditions

Before the mission begins status on the weather forecast, site conditions and any potential flight obstacles including radio towers is collected for the health and safety of the crew. A complete timeline of the ground weather conditions during the mission can be found in Table 1.

**Table 1. Ground Weather for Poly-America Fire Response**

| Location (time) | Ground (0800)     | Ground (0900)   | Ground (1000)     | Ground (1100)    | Ground (1200)     |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Wind direction  | 025 degrees (NNE) | 000 degrees (N) | 060 degrees (ENE) | 045 degrees (NE) | 335 degrees (NNW) |
| Wind speed      | 2.7 m/s (6 mph)   | 1.3 m/s (3 mph) | 2.2 m/s (5 mph)   | 2.7 m/s (6 mph)  | 1.3 m/s (3 mph)   |
| Temperature     | 23°C              | 25°C            | 27°C              | 29°C             | 30°C              |
| Humidity        | 64%               | 58%             | 51%               | 43%              | 39%               |
| Dew Point       | 16°C              | 16°C            | 16°C              | 15°C             | 15°C              |
| Pressure        | 1014 mb           | 1014 mb         | 1015 mb           | 1025 mb          | 1025 mb           |
| Ceiling         | Clear             | Clear           | Clear             | Clear            | Clear             |

While in flight, the crew reported that winds at 2800 ft AGL were 5.6 m/s (11 kts) from 035 degrees. Weather conditions were ideal throughout the mission—little to no turbulence was experienced by the crew. Smoke emitted from the fire was reported to be black in color and rose rapidly immediately downwind of the fire. A low-level plume of white smoke was also reported (see Figure 8).

## Site Challenges

The order to launch the aircraft was given at approximately 0715 CST on 19 August 2020 and the aircraft was airborne at 0810 CST. ASPECT was not able to proceed directly to the site upon takeoff because the plume was in the approach path for DFW International Airport. With communication to EPA Region VI and Region VI outreach to the local Fire Chief, ASPECT was initially given a 20-minute window to collect data at specific altitudes that were directed by the control tower. The pilots stayed in continuous contact with DFW's Air Traffic Control tower throughout the mission. At 0923 CST the aircraft performed the first data collection over the site. DFW Air Traffic Control extended the 20-minute window for data collection to 40 minutes which allowed ASPECT to complete several more data collection runs. The mission was complete at 1107 CST. The aircraft made a total of 8 data collection runs; flight information is summarized in Appendix A and Figure 2.

## **Data Results**

The following data is provided as a summary analysis. All data products are available for the Region to access on a shared FTP site. For a complete list of available products, see Appendix A. The data collected during this mission included a flight path summary, IRLS images, FTIR chemical identification and quantification, high resolution MSIC photos, and oblique photos.

## Flight Paths

With the challenges of sharing air space during the mission, the plane had to maneuver in various way across the site to be compliant with DFW Air Traffic Control requirements. Wide, slow turns have to be made in between runs in order to keep the instruments stable. Figure 2 shows the various flight paths that the plane had to take to maintain optimal data quality. The blue lines indicate the flight path while the green lines indicate the specific sections of the flight where chemical data was collected and processed.

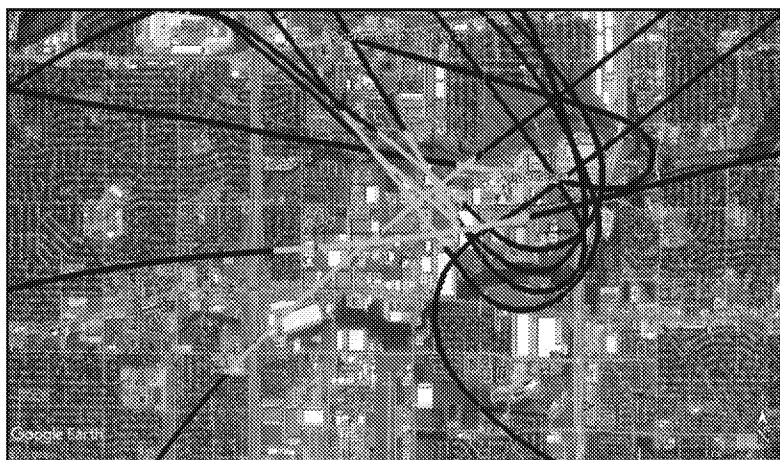


Figure 2. Data collection runs, Poly-America Fire, Grand Prairie, TX.

### Line Scanner Data Results

A total of 8 data collection runs were made in the proximity of the fire and an infrared line scanner image was generated for each run. Figure 3 shows a typical 3-band infrared image obtained from data collected for Run 2. This image was generated by flying approximately 250 meters downwind of the facility. The white area within the image is the heat signature of the fire. A thermal plume (broken white cloud on the southwest edge of the fire) can be seen being emitted. The linear lines seen projecting from the fire toward the southwest are artifacts of detector saturation. Based on this imagery, no detectable chemical plume was being generated by the fire.



Figure 3. Three band IR image, Run 2, Poly-America Fire



## FTIR Data Results

FTIR spectral data at a resolution of 16 wavenumbers was collected for each run. ASPECT uses an automated detection algorithm to permit compounds to be analyzed while the aircraft is in flight. Seventy-six compounds are included in the airborne algorithm (the list is given in Appendix B, Table 1). In addition, collected data was also manually quality checked against a collection of published library spectra for each chemical detected.

Two chemical detections were observed during the mission: 1-butene (CAS 106-98-9) and isobutylene (CAS 115-11-7). These chemicals were detected downwind of the fire on several collection runs. Figure 4a (the site-collected 1-butene spectra) and 4b (the published library spectra) show a confirmation comparison. For the 1-butene detection, the location of the primary spectral feature at  $912\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is in agreement for both spectra. Figures 5a and 5b show a similar agreement for the isobutylene detection in the primary  $890\text{ cm}^{-1}$  spectral feature between the field and library spectra. It should be noted that the ASPECT spectrum is collected at  $16\text{ cm}^{-1}$  resolution while the library spectrum is collected at  $0.5\text{ cm}^{-1}$  resolution.

The locations of chemical detections for the overall mission are shown in Figure 6. The variability observed in the locations of the detections is likely due to the variability of the wind direction. Table 2 provides the maximum concentration estimate observed on the respective data collection runs. Detections were near the detection limits of the system which was 1.2 and 1.5 ppm for 1-butene and isobutylene, respectively.

An upwind run was also collected, during which several isoprene detections were made. No isoprene detections were made downwind of the fire. These detections were most likely a result of vapors migrating in from a nearby source (possibly creosote-treated railroad ties or natural emissions from local trees).



Figure 4a. Field Spectrum, 1-Butene Absorption Peak at 912  $\text{cm}^{-1}$

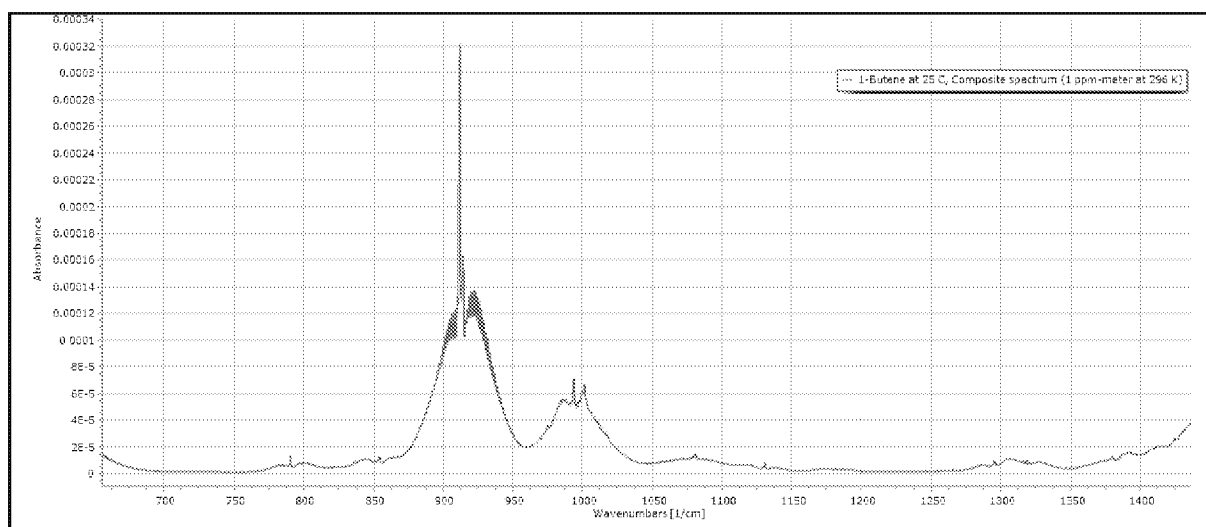


Figure 4b. Library Spectrum, 1-Butene Spectral Peak at 912  $\text{cm}^{-1}$

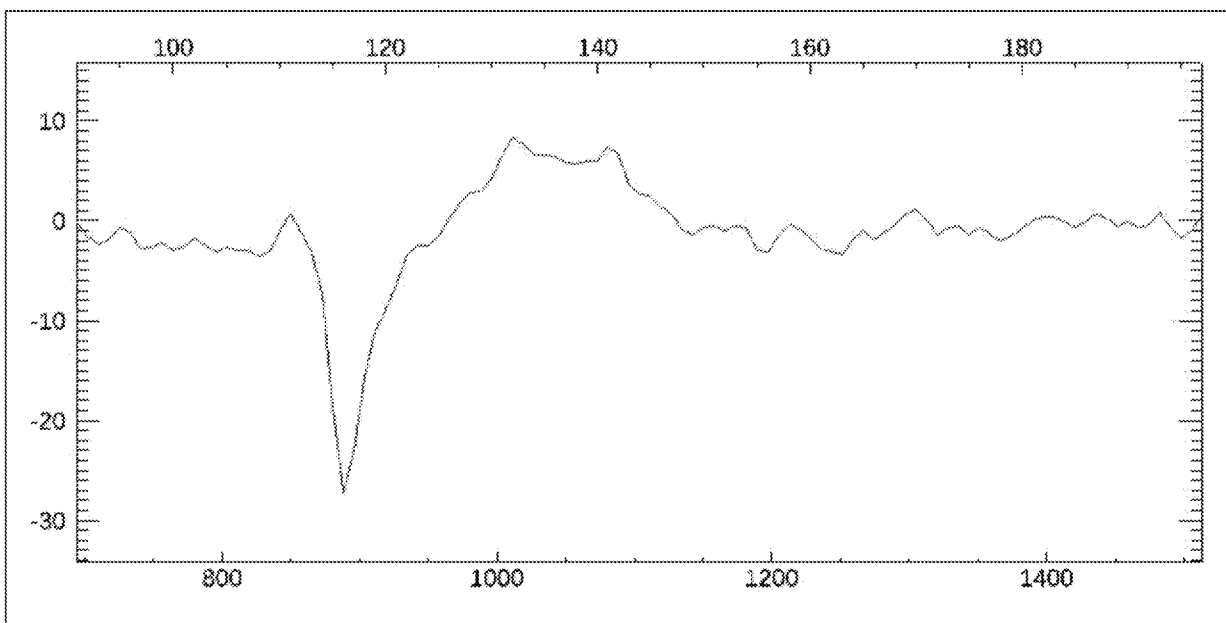


Figure 5a. Field Spectrum, Isobutylene Absorption Peak at  $890\text{ cm}^{-1}$

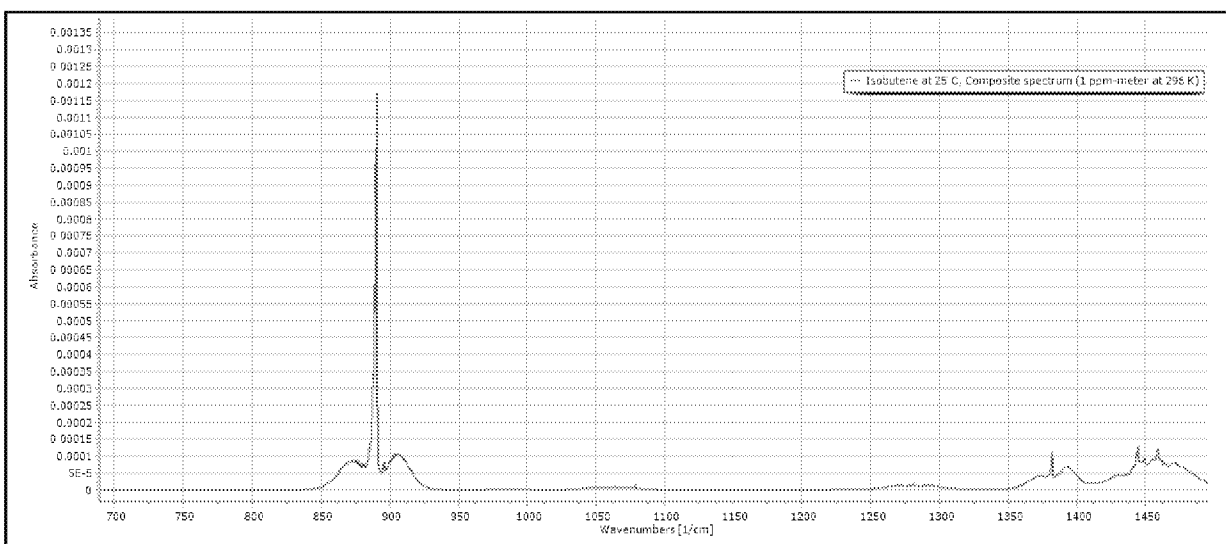


Figure 5b. Library Spectrum, Isobutylene Spectral Peak at  $890\text{ cm}^{-1}$

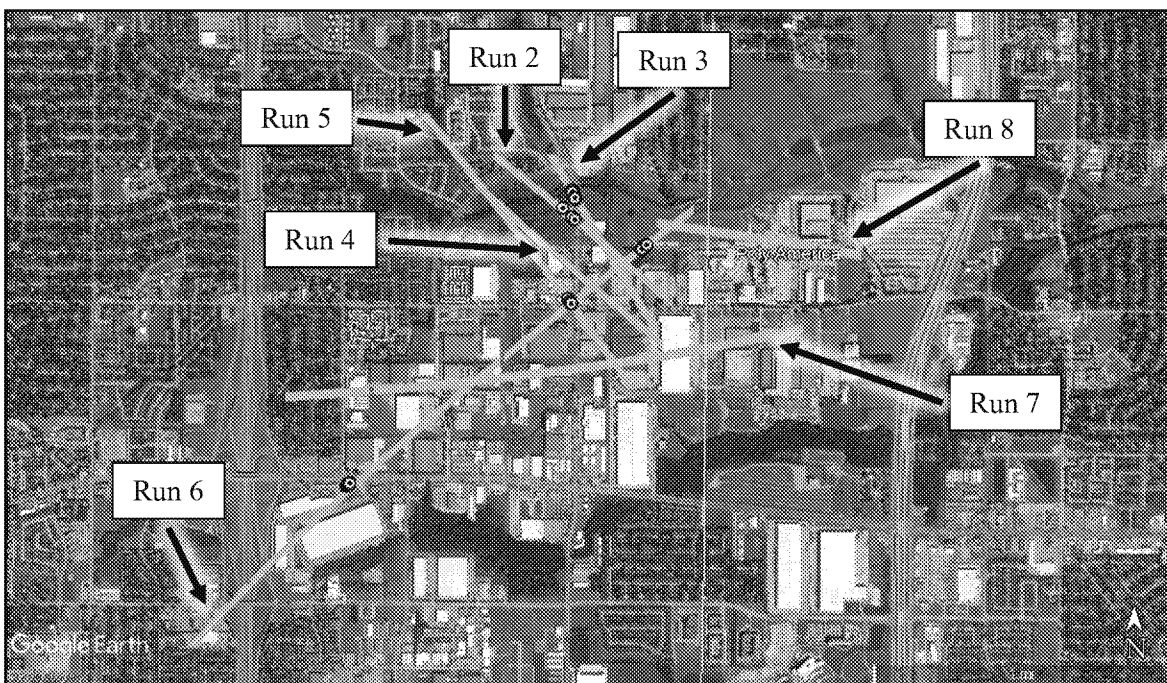


Figure 6. Compound detection locations associated with the Poly-America Fire

**Table 2. Chemical Results Summary**

| Table 2. Chemical Results Summary |             |            |                         |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Run                               | Date        | Time (UTC) | Chemical                | Max Concentration (ppm) |
| 1                                 | 19 Aug 2020 | 1331       | Test                    | Test                    |
| 2                                 |             | 1422       | 1-butene<br>isobutylene | 1.273<br>1.506          |
| 3                                 |             | 1428       | 1-butene<br>isobutylene | 1.449<br>1.564          |
| 4                                 |             | 1435       | 1-butene                | 1.264                   |
| 5                                 |             | 1442       | 1-butene                | 1.356                   |
| 6                                 |             | 1456       | 1-butene                | 1.609                   |
| 7                                 |             | 1506       | ND                      | None                    |
| 8                                 |             | 1529       | ND                      | None                    |
| Note: ND = No Detections          |             |            |                         |                         |

## Aerial Photography Results

A full set of high-resolution aerial digital photography were collected as part of the flight. Figure 7 shows a representative image collected as part of each run. This image was collected using the MSIC camera located underneath the plane on data Run 6 after the fire had diminished in intensity. The plume, which is moving to the southwest, still shows a black color with a rapid loft in altitude. Figure 8 shows an oblique image collected northwest of the facility again showing the vertical nature of the smoke plume and the black nature of the emission. This image was collected early in the mission and tends to show low level smoke being generated on the east side of the fire.



Figure 7. MSIC Aerial Image of the Poly-America Fire

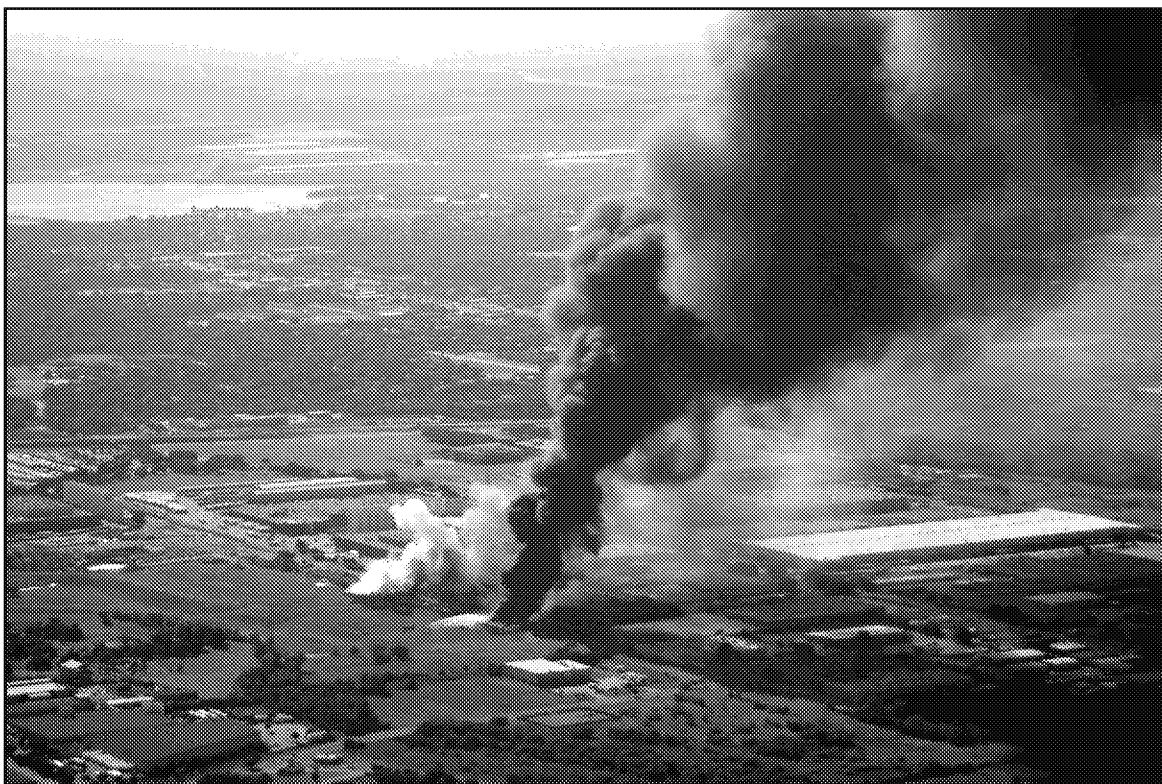


Figure 8. Oblique Image of the Poly-America Fire

## Conclusion

On 19 August 2020, ASEPCT was requested by EPA Region 6 to provide air monitoring support for the Poly-America fire. ASPECT conducted a total of 8 data collections, both up and downwind of the fire and collected a full set of FTIR, IRLS, and photographic data on each run. The fire generated a black plume that rose quickly from the site. Data collected flying downwind of the fire showed the presence of 1-butene and isobutylene along many of the runs. The highest concentration of 1-butene detected was 1.449 ppm and for isobutylene 1.564 ppm. Analysis of IRLS imagery showed the characteristic signatures of a hot fire and hot smoke immediately downwind of the fire but showed no evidence of a chemical plume being emitted from the facility.

### Appendix A: File Names of Data Collected During Flight

| Run # | Time (UTC) | Altitude (ft MSL) | Velocity (knots) | MSIC Data Files       | FTIR Data Files       | IRLS Data Files                                    | Gamma Files |
|-------|------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------|
| Run 1 | 13:31:47   | 3614              | 167              | 20200819133156112.jpg | 20200819_133153_A.igm | 2020_08_19_13_31_54_R_01<br>TA=18.8;TB=39.5;Gain=3 | None        |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819133202477.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819133208826.jpg |                       |  |             |
| Run 2 | 14:22:40   | 2554              | 109              | 20200819142246657.jpg | 20200819_142244_A.igm | 2020_08_19_14_22_45_R_02<br>TA=14.6;TB=34.8;Gain=3 | None        |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819142251200.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819142255740.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819142300279.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819142304819.jpg |                       |  |             |
| Run 3 | 14:28:38   | 2498              | 111              | 20200819142844374.jpg | 20200819_142842_A.igm | 2020_08_19_14_28_43_R_03<br>TA=20.6;TB=40.7;Gain=3 | None        |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819142848920.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819142853459.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819142857998.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819142902538.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819142904348.jpg |                       |  |             |
| Run 4 | 14:35:44   | 3423 ft           | 116              | 20200819143550183.jpg | 20200819_143547_A.igm | 2020_08_19_14_35_48_R_04<br>TA=21.0;TB=41.1;Gain=3 | None        |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819143556532.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819143602897.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819143609246.jpg |                       |  |             |
|       |            |                   |                  | 20200819143611056.jpg |                       |  |             |

| Run #                 | Time (UTC) | Altitude (ft MSL) | Velocity (knots) | MSIC Data Files  | FTIR Data Files                                | IRLS Data Files                                    | Gamma Files |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------------|------------------|--|--|--|-------------|
| Run 5                 | 14:42:17   | 3401              | 110              | 20200819144223311.jpg<br>20200819144229660.jpg<br>20200819144236009.jpg<br>20200819144242374.jpg<br>20200819144248723.jpg<br>20200819144255983.jpg | 20200819_144221_A.igm                          | 2020_08_19_14_42_22_R_05<br>TA=20.4;TB=40.3;Gain=3 | None        |
| Run 6                 | 14:56:51   | 7885              | 114              | 20200819145657619.jpg  | 20200819_145654_A.igm<br>20200819_145734_A.igm | 2020_08_19_14_56_56_R_06<br>TA=21.9;TB=41.9;Gain=3 | None        |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819145703968.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819145710333.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819145716681.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819145723036.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819145729389.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819145735738.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819145743010.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819145749359.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819145755724.jpg  |  |  |             |
| Run 7                 | 15:06:29   | 7662              | 118              | 20200819150635948.jpg  | 20200819_150633_A.igm                          | 2020_08_19_15_06_34_R_07<br>TA=21.9;TB=41.9;Gain=3 | None        |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819150642313.jpg  | 20200819_150711_A.igm                          |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819150648668.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819150655021.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819150701370.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819150707735.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819150714084.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819150720434.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | 20200819150721354.jpg  |  |  |             |
|                       |            |                   |                  | Run 8  | 15:29:59                                       |  |             |
| 20200819153010473.jpg |            |                   |                  |  |  |  |             |
| 20200819153014092.jpg |            |                   |                  |  |  |  |             |
| 20200819153018631.jpg |            |                   |                  |  |  |  |             |
| 20200819153023171.jpg |            |                   |                  |  |  |  |             |



## Appendix B: ASPECT Systems

The US EPA ASPECT system collects airborne infrared (IR) images and chemical screening data from a safe distance over the site (about 3,000 ft AGL). The system consists of an airborne high-speed Fourier Transform Infra-Red (FTIR) spectrometer coupled with a wide-area IR Line Scanner (IRLS). The ASPECT IR systems can detect chemical compounds in both the 8 to 12 micron (800 to 1200 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and 3 to 5 micron (2000 to 3200 cm<sup>-1</sup>) regions. List of chemicals and detection limits are listed in Table 1. The 8 to 12 micron region is typically known as the atmospheric window region since the band is reasonably void of water and carbon dioxide influence. Spectrally, this region is used to detect carbon - non-carbon bonded compounds. The 3 to 5 micron region is also free of water and carbon dioxide but typically does not have sufficient energy for use. This band does show use in high-energy environments such as fires. The carbon - hydrogen stretch is very common in this region.

An Imperx mapping camera (29 mega pixels; mapping focal plane array) is concurrently operated as part of all chemical collections. These images are often digitally processed in lower resolution, so they can be transmitted via satellite communication. All imagery is geo-rectified using both aircraft attitude correction (pitch, yaw, and roll) and GPS positional information. Imagery can be processed while in flight or approximately 600 frames per hour can be processed once the data are downloaded from the aircraft. The high-resolution images (>20 MB each) are pulled from the ASPECT after the sortie and are available at a later time.

All aerial photographic images collected by the ASPECT system are ortho-rectified and geospatially validated by the scientific reach back team. In general, this consists of conducting geo-registration using a USGS Digital Elevation Model (DEM) which promotes superior pixel computation and lessens topographic distortion. The image is checked by the team (using a Google Earth base map) for proper location and rotation.

Airborne radiological measurements are conducted using three fully integrated multi-crystal sodium iodide (NaI) RSX4 gamma ray spectrometers. Each RSX4 spectrometer contains four 4"x2"x16" doped NaI crystals each having an independent photomultiplier/spectrometer assembly. One RSX unit is configured with an additional upward NaI crystal utilized to provide real-time cosmic ray correction. Count and energy data from each crystal and pack is combined using a self-calibrating signal processor to generate a virtual detector output. All radiological spectrometer "packs" are further combined using a signal console controlled by the on-board central computer in the aircraft. Altitude correction data is provided by a radar altimeter with internal GPS systems within the packs serving as a backup. It should be noted that no radiological measurements were conducted on this mission.

Data is processed using automated algorithms onboard the aircraft with preliminary results being sent using a satellite system to the ASPECT scientific reach back team for QA/QC analysis. Upon landing, preliminary data results are examined and validated by the scientific reach back team.

Table 1. ASPECT Automated Compounds

This table contains ASPECT's library of automated compounds.

Detection limits are for each chemical is found in parenthesis in units of parts per million (ppm)

|                             |                               |                            |                              |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Acetic Acid (2.0)           | Cumene (23.1)                 | Isoprene (6.5)             | Phosphine (8.3)              |
| Acetone (5.6)               | Diborane (5.0)                | Isopropanol (8.5)          | Phosphorus Oxychloride (2.0) |
| Acrolein (8.8)              | 1,1-Dichloroethene (3.7)      | Isopropyl Acetate (0.7)    | Propyl Acetate (0.7)         |
| Acrylonitrile (12.5)        | Dichloromethane (6.0)         | MAPP (3.7)                 | Propylene (3.7)              |
| Acrylic Acid (3.3)          | Dichlorodifluoromethane (0.7) | Methyl Acetate (1.0)       | Propylene Oxide (6.8)        |
| Allyl Alcohol (5.3)         | 1,1-Difluoroethane (0.8)      | Methyl Acrylate (1.0)      | Silicon Tetrafluoride (0.2)  |
| Ammonia (2.0)               | Difluoromethane (0.8)         | Methyl Ethyl Ketone (7.5)  | Sulfur Dioxide (15)          |
| Arsine (18.7)               | Ethanol (6.3)                 | Methanol (5.4)             | Sulfur Hexafluoride (0.07)   |
| Bis-Chloroethyl Ether (1.7) | Ethyl Acetate (0.8)           | Methylbromide (60)         | Sulfur Mustard (6.0)         |
| Boron Tribromide (0.2)      | Ethyl Acrylate (0.8)          | Methylene Chloride (1.1)   | Sulfuryl Fluoride (1.5)      |
| Boron Trifluoride (5.6)     | Ethyl Formate (1.0)           | Methyl Methacrylate (3.0)  | Tetrachloroethylene (10)     |
| 1,3-Butadiene (5.0)         | Ethylene (5.0)                | MTEB (3.8)                 | 1,1,1-Trichloroethane (1.9)  |
| 1-Butene (12.0)             | Formic Acid (5.0)             | Naphthalene (3.8)          | Trichloroethylene (2.7)      |
| 2-Butene (18.8)             | Freon 134a (0.8)              | n-Butyl Acetate (3.8)      | Trichloromethane (0.7)       |
| Carbon Tetrachloride (0.2)  | GA (Tabun) (0.7)              | n-Butyl Alcohol (7.9)      | Triethylamine (6.2)          |
| Carbonyl Fluoride (0.8)     | GB (Sarin) (0.5)              | Nitric Acid (5.0)          | Triethylphosphate (0.3)      |
| Carbon Tetrafluoride (0.1)  | Germane (1.5)                 | Nitrogen Mustard (2.5)     | Trimethylamine (9.3)         |
| Chlorodifluoromethane (0.6) | Hexafluoroacetone (0.4)       | Nitrogen Trifluoride (0.7) | Trimethyl Phosphite (0.4)    |
| Chloromethane (12)          | Isobutylene (15)              | Phosgene (0.5)             | Vinyl Acetate (0.6)          |

Message

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**From:** Assunto, Carmen [Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/21/2020 9:28:19 PM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]; Carroll, Craig [Carroll.Craig@epa.gov]; Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Update for EJ Emails

FYI

---

**From:** Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 4:16 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo <Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>; Vaughn, Gloria <Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Update for EJ Emails

Thank you, Carmen.

*Arturo J. Blanco*, Director  
Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment  
Office of the Regional Administrator  
US EPA Region 6  
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500  
Dallas, TX 75270-2102  
214.665.3182 (O)  
214.531.8629 (M)

---

**From:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 4:09 PM  
**To:** Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo <Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>; Vaughn, Gloria <Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Update for EJ Emails

Please find the latest update for your EJ communities.

## **US Environmental Protection Agency**

### **Report Date: 8/21/2020**

On August 19, 2020, EPA was notified of a fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie, TX. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring. TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m3) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150 µg/m3. No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H2S, and O2). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** The EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EPA's START also visited the North Cottonwood Creek and reported that an earthen dam was constructed and a Vac Truck was on site. There was no sheening in the creek, just ash and foam. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates if needed.**

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Message

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**From:** Assunto, Carmen [Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/21/2020 8:54:48 PM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Durant, Jennah [Durant.Jennah@epa.gov]; Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]; Carroll, Craig [Carroll.Craig@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Will do

On Aug 21, 2020, at 3:45 PM, Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov> wrote:

Carmen – can you look at this and forward a Public version to the email group below for EJs dissemination?

On August 19, 2020, EPA was notified of a fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie, TX. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring. TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H2S, and O2). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** The EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EPA's START also visited the North Cottonwood Creek and reported that an earthen dam was constructed and a Vac Truck was on site. There was no sheening in the creek, just ash and foam. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

Bryant

---

**From:** Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 1:55 PM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>; Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Vaughn, Gloria <Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo <Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Below is our statement from the first day of the fire. Should it be updated?

EPA is aware of the fire at the Poly-America facility in Grand Prairie, Texas and is coordinating with state and local responders to provide assistance. EPA has deployed the ASPECT plane with airborne chemical detection capabilities to assist with air monitoring.

---

**From:** Smalley, Bryant <[smalley.bryant@epa.gov](mailto:smalley.bryant@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 1:51 PM  
**To:** Blanco, Arturo <[Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov](mailto:Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov)>; Loesel, Matthew <[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <[Taheri.Diane@epa.gov](mailto:Taheri.Diane@epa.gov)>; Vaughn, Gloria <[Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov](mailto:Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov)>; Acosta, Gerardo <[Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov](mailto:Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov)>; Durant, Jennah <[Durant.Jennah@epa.gov](mailto:Durant.Jennah@epa.gov)>; Assunto, Carmen <[Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov](mailto:Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Arturo – I thought Jennah drafted a final desk statement. Let's see if that will work for you.

Jennah/Carmen – can you forward that?

B

---

**From:** Blanco, Arturo <[Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov](mailto:Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 1:46 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <[Taheri.Diane@epa.gov](mailto:Taheri.Diane@epa.gov)>; Smalley, Bryant <[smalley.bryant@epa.gov](mailto:smalley.bryant@epa.gov)>; Vaughn, Gloria <[Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov](mailto:Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov)>; Acosta, Gerardo <[Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov](mailto:Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Matthew – While I am not looking for another update now, we should have a closure statement so that we may be responsive to the outside email we got. At this time I owe a response. Can it be said in coordination with Public Affairs?

*Arturo J. Blanco, Director*  
Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment  
Office of the Regional Administrator  
US EPA Region 6  
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500  
Dallas, TX 75270-2102  
214.665.3182 (O)  
214.531.8629 (M)

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 4:42 PM  
**To:** Blanco, Arturo <[Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov](mailto:Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <[Taheri.Diane@epa.gov](mailto:Taheri.Diane@epa.gov)>; Smalley, Bryant <[smalley.bryant@epa.gov](mailto:smalley.bryant@epa.gov)>; Vaughn, Gloria <[Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov](mailto:Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov)>; Acosta, Gerardo <[Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov](mailto:Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

We do not foresee another spot report for this incident

---

**From:** Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 4:41 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>; Vaughn, Gloria <Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo <Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Matt – Will there be another update coordinated with Public Affairs? TEJAS and Grassroots Global Justice Alliance are asking for information as follows:

*“Ramon and I look forward to hearing about the update, whether there is a chance for the fire to billow again. Remembering how ITC went here what are the dangers present with smoldering and fuming of any gases, chemicals, and other air quality updates, the unseen dangers as well as any cleanup measures.”*

Arturo J. Blanco, Director  
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Office of the Regional Administrator  
US EPA Region 6  
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500  
Dallas, TX 75270-2102  
214.665.3182 (O)  
214.531.8629 (M)

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:52 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Boynton, Lisa <Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov>; Brooks, Christopher <brooks.christopher@epa.gov>; Burton, Terry <Burton.Terry@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Courtney Hoover <courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov>; Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>; gbrown@hc-inc.net; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Hollier, Alice <Hollier.Alice@epa.gov>; Hope, Ginny <Hope.Ginny@epa.gov>; Irizarry, Gilberto <Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov>; LaBombard, Will <LaBombard.Will@epa.gov>; Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>; Mask, Kendra <Mask.Kendra@epa.gov>; McAtee, Jeffrey <McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; McQueen, Ken <McQueen.Ken@epa.gov>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>; Oh, Peter <Oh.Peter@epa.gov>; Paisley, Eric <Paisley.Eric@epa.gov>; R6 Deputy Division Directors <R6\_Deputy\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 Division Directors <R6\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 OSC <R6\_OSC@epa.gov>; Smith, Monica <smith.monica@epa.gov>; Spiers, Brett <spiers.brett@epa.gov>; Stevens, Bill <stevens.bill@epa.gov>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Tanimura, Erin <Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov>; Tate, Samuel <Tate.Samuel@epa.gov>; Tatum, Stephen <Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov>; Taylor, Jillianne <Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov>; Thompson, Henry <Thompson.Henry@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Williams, Latrice <Williams.Latrice@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; klindley@hc-inc.net  
**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

### US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring.

TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H2S, and O2). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** The EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EOA START also



visited the North Cottonwood Creek and reported that an earthen dam was constructed and a Vac Truck was on site. There was no sheening in the creek, just ash and foam. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>  
<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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*Matthew Loesel*

*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (6SED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*

Message

---

**From:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/21/2020 8:45:28 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen [Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Durant, Jennah [Durant.Jennah@epa.gov]; Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]; Carroll, Craig [Carroll.Craig@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Carmen – can you look at this and forward a Public version to the email group below for EJs dissemination?

On August 19, 2020, EPA was notified of a fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie, TX. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring. TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H<sub>2</sub>S, and O<sub>2</sub>). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** The EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EPA's START also visited the North Cottonwood Creek and reported that an earthen dam was constructed and a Vac Truck was on site. There was no sheening in the creek, just ash and foam. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

Bryant

---

**From:** Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 1:55 PM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>; Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Vaughn, Gloria <Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo <Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Below is our statement from the first day of the fire. Should it be updated?

EPA is aware of the fire at the Poly-America facility in Grand Prairie, Texas and is coordinating with state and local responders to provide assistance. EPA has deployed the ASPECT plane with airborne chemical detection capabilities to assist with air monitoring.

---

**From:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 1:51 PM

**To:** Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Vaughn, Gloria <Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo <Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>; Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Arturo – I thought Jennah drafted a final desk statement. Let's see if that will work for you.

Jennah/Carmen – can you forward that?

B

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**From:** Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 1:46 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>; Vaughn, Gloria <Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo <Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>  
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**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 4:42 PM  
**To:** Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>; Vaughn, Gloria <Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo <Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

We do not foresee another spot report for this incident

---

**From:** Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 4:41 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>; Vaughn, Gloria <Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo <Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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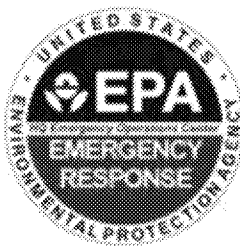
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**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date:** 8/19/2020

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

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**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>

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**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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Dallas, Texas 75270  
(214) 738 0674 (mobile)  
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Message

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**From:** Assunto, Carmen [Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/21/2020 7:01:33 PM  
**To:** Durant, Jennah [Durant.Jennah@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]; Blanco, Arturo [Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov]; Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]; Taheri, Diane [Taheri.Diane@epa.gov]; Vaughn, Gloria [Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov]; Acosta, Gerardo [Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Thank you. Following.

On Aug 21, 2020, at 1:54 PM, Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov> wrote:

Below is our statement from the first day of the fire. Should it be updated?

EPA is aware of the fire at the Poly-America facility in Grand Prairie, Texas and is coordinating with state and local responders to provide assistance. EPA has deployed the ASPECT plane with airborne chemical detection capabilities to assist with air monitoring.

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**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 1:51 PM  
**To:** Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Vaughn, Gloria <Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo <Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>; Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>  
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**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 4:41 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)>  
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**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:52 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen <[Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov](mailto:Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov)>; Blanco, Arturo <[Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov](mailto:Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov)>; Boynton, Lisa <[Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov](mailto:Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov)>; Brooks, Christopher <[brooks.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:brooks.christopher@epa.gov)>; Burton, Terry <[Burton.Terry@epa.gov](mailto:Burton.Terry@epa.gov)>; Carroll, Craig <[Carroll.Craig@epa.gov](mailto:Carroll.Craig@epa.gov)>; Courtney Hoover <[courtney\\_hoover@ios.doi.gov](mailto:courtney_hoover@ios.doi.gov)>; Eoc, Epahq <[Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov](mailto:Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov)>; gbrown@hc-inc.net; Gray, David <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>; Hollier, Alice <[Hollier.Alice@epa.gov](mailto:Hollier.Alice@epa.gov)>; Hope, Ginny <[Hope.Ginny@epa.gov](mailto:Hope.Ginny@epa.gov)>; Irizarry, Gilberto <[Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov](mailto:Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov)>; LaBombard, Will <[LaBombard.Will@epa.gov](mailto:LaBombard.Will@epa.gov)>; Martin, John <[martin.john@epa.gov](mailto:martin.john@epa.gov)>; Mask, Kendra <[Mask.Kendra@epa.gov](mailto:Mask.Kendra@epa.gov)>; McAtee, Jeffrey <[McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov)>; McQueen, Ken <[McQueen.Ken@epa.gov](mailto:McQueen.Ken@epa.gov)>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <[Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov](mailto:Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov)>; Oh, Peter <[Oh.Peter@epa.gov](mailto:Oh.Peter@epa.gov)>; Paisley, Eric <[Paisley.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Paisley.Eric@epa.gov)>; R6



Deputy Division Directors <R6\_Deputy\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 Division Directors <R6\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 OSC <R6\_OSC@epa.gov>; Smith, Monica <smith.monica@epa.gov>; Spiers, Brett <spiers.brett@epa.gov>; Stevens, Bill <stevens.bill@epa.gov>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Tanimura, Erin <Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov>; Tates, Samuel <Tates.Samuel@epa.gov>; Tatum, Stephen <Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov>; Taylor, Jillianne <Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov>; Thompson, Henry <Thompson.Henry@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Williams, Latrice <Williams.Latrice@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; klindley@hc-inc.net  
**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

### US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date:** 8/19/2020

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring.

TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m3) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150 µg/m3. No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H2S, and O2). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** The EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EOA START also visited the North Cottonwood Creek and reported that an earthen dam was constructed and a Vac Truck was on site. There was no sheening in the creek, just ash and foam. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>  
<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

*1201 Elm Street*

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*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*

Message

---

**From:** Durant, Jennah [Durant.Jennah@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/21/2020 6:54:34 PM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]; Blanco, Arturo [Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov]; Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Taheri, Diane [Taheri.Diane@epa.gov]; Vaughn, Gloria [Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov]; Acosta, Gerardo [Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov]; Assunto, Carmen [Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Below is our statement from the first day of the fire. Should it be updated?

EPA is aware of the fire at the Poly-America facility in Grand Prairie, Texas and is coordinating with state and local responders to provide assistance. EPA has deployed the ASPECT plane with airborne chemical detection capabilities to assist with air monitoring.

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**From:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 1:51 PM  
**To:** Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Vaughn, Gloria <Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo <Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>; Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Arturo – I thought Jennah drafted a final desk statement. Let's see if that will work for you.

Jennah/Carmen – can you forward that?

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**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
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Matthew – While I am not looking for another update now, we should have a closure statement so that we may be responsive to the outside email we got. At this time I owe a response. Can it be said in coordination with Public Affairs?

*Arturo J. Blanco*, Director  
Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment  
Office of the Regional Administrator  
US EPA Region 6  
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500  
Dallas, TX 75270-2102  
214.665.3182 (O)  
214.531.8629 (M)

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 4:42 PM  
**To:** Blanco, Arturo <[Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov](mailto:Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <[Taheri.Diane@epa.gov](mailto:Taheri.Diane@epa.gov)>; Smalley, Bryant <[smalley.bryant@epa.gov](mailto:smalley.bryant@epa.gov)>; Vaughn, Gloria <[Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov](mailto:Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov)>; Acosta, Gerardo <[Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov](mailto:Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

We do not foresee another spot report for this incident

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**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

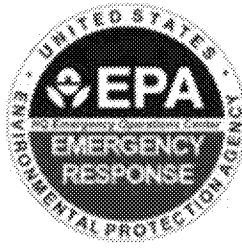
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*“Ramon and I look forward to hearing about the update, whether there is a chance for the fire to billow again. Remembering how ITC went here what are the dangers present with smoldering and fuming of any gases, chemicals, and other air quality updates, the unseen dangers as well as any cleanup measures.”*

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**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire



## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

### US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

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and reported that an earthen dam was constructed and a Vac Truck was on site. There was no sheening in the creek, just ash and foam. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>

<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

*Matthew Loesel*

*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

*1201 Elm Street*

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*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*

Message

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**From:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/21/2020 6:51:06 PM  
**To:** Blanco, Arturo [Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov]; Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Taheri, Diane [Taheri.Diane@epa.gov]; Vaughn, Gloria [Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov]; Acosta, Gerardo [Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov]; Durant, Jennah [Durant.Jennah@epa.gov]; Assunto, Carmen [Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov]  
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**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>; Vaughn, Gloria <Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo <Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>  
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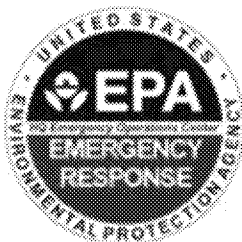
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**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

US Environmental Protection Agency



**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

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TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H<sub>2</sub>S, and O<sub>2</sub>). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** The EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

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**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>  
<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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***U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator***

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*Suite 500 (6SED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*loesel.matthew@epa.gov*

Message

---

**From:** Blanco, Arturo [Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/21/2020 6:46:22 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Taheri, Diane [Taheri.Diane@epa.gov]; Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]; Vaughn, Gloria [Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov]; Acosta, Gerardo [Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Matthew – While I am not looking for another update now, we should have a closure statement so that we may be responsive to the outside email we got. At this time I owe a response. Can it be said in coordination with Public Affairs?

Arturo J. Blanco, Director  
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Office of the Regional Administrator  
US EPA Region 6  
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500  
Dallas, TX 75270-2102  
214.665.3182 (O)  
214.531.8629 (M)

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 4:42 PM  
**To:** Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>; Vaughn, Gloria <Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo <Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

We do not foresee another spot report for this incident

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**From:** Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 4:41 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>; Vaughn, Gloria <Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo <Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Matt – Will there be another update coordinated with Public Affairs? TEJAS and Grassroots Global Justice Alliance are asking for information as follows:

*“Ramon and I look forward to hearing about the update, whether there is a chance for the fire to billow again. Remembering how ITC went here what are the dangers present with smoldering and fuming of any gases, chemicals, and other air quality updates, the unseen dangers as well as any cleanup measures.”*

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**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:52 PM

**To:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Boynton, Lisa <Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov>; Brooks, Christopher <brooks.christopher@epa.gov>; Burton, Terry <Burton.Terry@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Courtney Hoover <courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov>; Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>; gbrown@hc-inc.net; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Hollier, Alice <Hollier.Alice@epa.gov>; Hope, Ginny <Hope.Ginny@epa.gov>; Irizarry, Gilberto <Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov>; LaBombard, Will <LaBombard.Will@epa.gov>; Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>; Mask, Kendra <Mask.Kendra@epa.gov>; McAtee, Jeffrey <McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; McQueen, Ken <McQueen.Ken@epa.gov>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>; Oh, Peter <Oh.Peter@epa.gov>; Paisley, Eric <Paisley.Eric@epa.gov>; R6 Deputy Division Directors <R6\_Deputy\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 Division Directors <R6\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 OSC <R6\_OSC@epa.gov>; Smith, Monica <smith.monica@epa.gov>; Spiers, Brett <spiers.brett@epa.gov>; Stevens, Bill <stevens.bill@epa.gov>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Tanimura, Erin <Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov>; Tate, Samuel <Tate.Samuel@epa.gov>; Tatum, Stephen <Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov>; Taylor, Jillianne <Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov>; Thompson, Henry <Thompson.Henry@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Williams, Latrice <Williams.Latrice@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; klindley@hc-inc.net

**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

### US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date:** 8/19/2020

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring.

TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H2S, and O2). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** The EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EOA START also visited the North Cottonwood Creek and reported that an earthen dam was constructed and a Vac Truck was on site. There was no sheening in the creek, just ash and foam. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>

<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

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*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*

Message

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**From:** Blanco, Arturo [Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/20/2020 9:41:01 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Taheri, Diane [Taheri.Diane@epa.gov]; Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]; Vaughn, Gloria [Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov]; Acosta, Gerardo [Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Matt – Will there be another update coordinated with Public Affairs? TEJAS and Grassroots Global Justice Alliance are asking for information as follows:

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**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:52 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Boynton, Lisa <Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov>; Brooks, Christopher <brooks.christopher@epa.gov>; Burton, Terry <Burton.Terry@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Courtney Hoover <courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov>; Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>; gbrown@hc-inc.net; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Hollier, Alice <Hollier.Alice@epa.gov>; Hope, Ginny <Hope.Ginny@epa.gov>; Irizarry, Gilberto <Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov>; LaBombard, Will <LaBombard.Will@epa.gov>; Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>; Mask, Kendra <Mask.Kendra@epa.gov>; McAtee, Jeffrey <McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; McQueen, Ken <McQueen.Ken@epa.gov>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>; Oh, Peter <Oh.Peter@epa.gov>; Paisley, Eric <Paisley.Eric@epa.gov>; R6 Deputy Division Directors <R6\_Deputy\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 Division Directors <R6\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 OSC <R6\_OSC@epa.gov>; Smith, Monica <smith.monica@epa.gov>; Spiers, Brett <spiers.brett@epa.gov>; Stevens, Bill <stevens.bill@epa.gov>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Tanimura, Erin <Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov>; Tate, Samuel <Tate.Samuel@epa.gov>; Tatum, Stephen <Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov>; Taylor, Jillianne <Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov>; Thompson, Henry <Thompson.Henry@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Williams, Latrice <Williams.Latrice@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; klindley@hc-inc.net  
**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

**US Environmental Protection Agency**

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

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<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

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*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*



Message

---

**From:** Nguyen, Lyndsey [Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/20/2020 6:08:58 PM  
**To:** Rauscher, Jon [Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Turner, Philip [Turner.Philip@epa.gov]; Cook, Brenda [cook.brenda@epa.gov]; Hidalgo, Chelsea [Hidalgo.Chelsea@epa.gov]; Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Yay! Awesome! Thanks Jon.

The questions were just internal mental questions that we, as ASPECT, typically juggle during a response. I wasn't looking for answers to them, but I appreciate and totally agree with you answers.

Thanks again!

-Lynds

---

**From:** Rauscher, Jon <Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 1:04 PM  
**To:** Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Turner, Philip <Turner.Philip@epa.gov>; Cook, Brenda <cook.brenda@epa.gov>; Hidalgo, Chelsea <Hidalgo.Chelsea@epa.gov>; Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

About AMCVs:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/toxicology/amcv>

AMCV autogenerated table:

[https://www.tceq.texas.gov/cgi-bin/compliance/monops/agc\\_amcvs.pl](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/cgi-bin/compliance/monops/agc_amcvs.pl)

Hi Lyndsey,

Questions:

- Can we spend more time on ensuring this is the correct concentration and chemical (i.e. the QAQC part)?
  - Generally the region requests the ASPECT due to an urgent situation like a fire. If the information is indicated to be preliminary, the region can take that into account in our decision making until the "validated" information is received.
- Are the "hits" what we would expect or totally bogus?
  - I wasn't surprised to see isobutylene and 1-butene because those chemicals also were detected in the fires that ASPECT flew last year.
- Should we immediately alarm the Region and work on QAQC afterwards?
  - I would immediately alarm / alert the region but not that the results are preliminary.

We would like to see a spreadsheet listing the federal and state values too. Something that we can encourage EPA HQ to develop or lead the effort.

Thanks, Jon

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**From:** Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 11:31 AM  
**To:** Rauscher, Jon <Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Howdy Jon,

Hope you have time to catch your breath after the fire response yesterday. I know how hectic responses can be.

Quick question: Do you have the database that has the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs)? I searched everywhere on TCEQ's website for the TAMIS Database that is mentioned but never found it.

Reason why I ask, yesterday when the ASPECT plane flew, we got a couple of hits—meaning we saw some areas where the concentrations were above our detection limit. We definitely understand that we are not to interpret the data—that's what the Regional toxicologist/risk assessor/environmental unit is for—but we would like some idea of how quickly we need to turn around on verifying these concentrations (i.e. conducting QAQC on the data). Of course, if you ask an OSC, they always need the data "NOW!" which we try to do ASAP, but unfortunately, we need to do a few verifications before releasing the data. For ASPECT, we are juggling a few questions before we release the data to the Regions:

- Can we spend more time on ensuring this is the correct concentration and chemical (i.e. the QAQC part)? and
  - Are the "hits" what we would expect or totally bogus?
- OR-
- Should we immediately alarm the Region and work on QAQC afterwards?

While we have CAMEO, WISER, NIOSH, ERGs, etc., each State is specific values in what is considered an exceedance. For me, I would feel more comfortable having a database/spreadsheet as a reference that lays out the state-specific values so that we know when to pull the trigger in releasing the data (i.e. send the data before QA or wait until after QA is complete). Also, we aren't sure when to strongly emphasize the data to an OSC, "Hey, make sure the environmental unit sees this right now!" vs. "Yeah, doesn't seem to be a big deal but pass the data along to the environmental unit for determination." We definitely do not want to play the role as the decision maker—that's not our intent nor mission. We just want to create a better partnership in helping the Regions. Know what I mean?

Hope all is well! Stay safe!

-Lyndsey

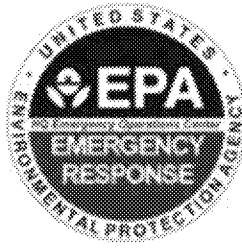
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**From:** Loesel, Matthew <[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:52 PM

**To:** Assunto, Carmen <[Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov](mailto:Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov)>; Blanco, Arturo <[Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov](mailto:Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov)>; Boynton, Lisa <[Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov](mailto:Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov)>; Brooks, Christopher <[brooks.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:brooks.christopher@epa.gov)>; Burton, Terry <[Burton.Terry@epa.gov](mailto:Burton.Terry@epa.gov)>; Carroll, Craig <[Carroll.Craig@epa.gov](mailto:Carroll.Craig@epa.gov)>; Courtney Hoover <[courtney\\_hoover@ios.doi.gov](mailto:courtney_hoover@ios.doi.gov)>; Eoc, Epahq <[Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov](mailto:Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov)>; gbrown@hc-inc.net; Gray, David <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>; Hollier, Alice <[Hollier.Alice@epa.gov](mailto:Hollier.Alice@epa.gov)>; Hope, Ginny <[Hope.Ginny@epa.gov](mailto:Hope.Ginny@epa.gov)>; Irizarry, Gilberto <[Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov](mailto:Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov)>; LaBombard, Will <[LaBombard.Will@epa.gov](mailto:LaBombard.Will@epa.gov)>; Martin, John <[martin.john@epa.gov](mailto:martin.john@epa.gov)>; Mask, Kendra <[Mask.Kendra@epa.gov](mailto:Mask.Kendra@epa.gov)>; McAtee, Jeffrey <[McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov)>; McQueen, Ken <[McQueen.Ken@epa.gov](mailto:McQueen.Ken@epa.gov)>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <[Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov](mailto:Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov)>; Oh, Peter <[Oh.Peter@epa.gov](mailto:Oh.Peter@epa.gov)>; Paisley, Eric <[Paisley.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Paisley.Eric@epa.gov)>; R6 Deputy Division Directors <[R6\\_Deputy\\_Division\\_Directors@epa.gov](mailto:R6_Deputy_Division_Directors@epa.gov)>; R6 Division Directors <[R6\\_Division\\_Directors@epa.gov](mailto:R6_Division_Directors@epa.gov)>; R6 OSC <[R6\\_OSC@epa.gov](mailto:R6_OSC@epa.gov)>; Smith, Monica <[smith.monica@epa.gov](mailto:smith.monica@epa.gov)>; Spiers, Brett <[spiers.brett@epa.gov](mailto:spiers.brett@epa.gov)>; Stevens, Bill <[stevens.bill@epa.gov](mailto:stevens.bill@epa.gov)>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane <[Taheri.Diane@epa.gov](mailto:Taheri.Diane@epa.gov)>; Tanimura, Erin <[Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov](mailto:Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov)>; Tate, Samuel <[Tate.Samuel@epa.gov](mailto:Tate.Samuel@epa.gov)>; Tatum, Stephen <[Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov](mailto:Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov)>; Taylor, Jillianne <[Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov](mailto:Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov)>; Thompson, Henry <[Thompson.Henry@epa.gov](mailto:Thompson.Henry@epa.gov)>; Thompson, Steve <[thompson.steve@epa.gov](mailto:thompson.steve@epa.gov)>; Williams, Latrice <[Williams.Latrice@epa.gov](mailto:Williams.Latrice@epa.gov)>; Assunto, Carmen <[Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov](mailto:Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov)>; klindley@hc-inc.net

**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire



## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

### US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

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and reported that an earthen dam was constructed and a Vac Truck was on site. There was no sheening in the creek, just ash and foam. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>

<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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*Matthew Loesel*

*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

*1201 Elm Street*

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*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*

Message

---

**From:** Rauscher, Jon [Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/20/2020 6:03:32 PM  
**To:** Nguyen, Lyndsey [Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Turner, Philip [Turner.Philip@epa.gov]; Cook, Brenda [cook.brenda@epa.gov]; Hidalgo, Chelsea [Hidalgo.Chelsea@epa.gov]; Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

About AMCVs:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/toxicology/amcv>

AMCV autogenerated table:

[https://www.tceq.texas.gov/cgi-bin/compliance/monops/agc\\_amcvs.pl](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/cgi-bin/compliance/monops/agc_amcvs.pl)

Hi Lyndsey,

Questions:

- Can we spend more time on ensuring this is the correct concentration and chemical (i.e. the QAQC part)?
  - Generally the region requests the ASPECT due to an urgent situation like a fire. If the information is indicated to be preliminary, the region can take that into account in our decision making until the “validated” information is received.
- Are the “hits” what we would expect or totally bogus?
  - I wasn’t surprised to see isobutylene and 1-butene because those chemicals also were detected in the fires that ASPECT flew last year.
- Should we immediately alarm the Region and work on QAQC afterwards?
  - I would immediately alarm / alert the region but not that the results are preliminary.

We would like to see a spreadsheet listing the federal and state values too. Something that we can encourage EPA HQ to develop or lead the effort.

Thanks, Jon

---

**From:** Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 11:31 AM  
**To:** Rauscher, Jon <Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Howdy Jon,

Hope you have time to catch your breath after the fire response yesterday. I know how hectic responses can be.

Quick question: Do you have the database that has the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs)? I searched everywhere on TCEQ’s website for the TAMIS Database that is mentioned but never found it.

Reason why I ask, yesterday when the ASPECT plane flew, we got a couple of hits—meaning we saw some areas where the concentrations were above our detection limit. We definitely understand that we are not to interpret the data—that’s what the Regional toxicologist/risk assessor/environmental unit is for—but we would like some idea of how quickly we need to turn around on verifying these concentrations (i.e. conducting QAQC on the data). Of course, if you ask an OSC, they always need the data “NOW!” which we try to do ASAP, but unfortunately, we need to do a few verifications before releasing the data. For ASPECT, we are juggling a few questions before we release the data to the Regions:

- Can we spend more time on ensuring this is the correct concentration and chemical (i.e. the QAQC part)? and

- Are the “hits” what we would expect or totally bogus?  
-OR-
- Should we immediately alarm the Region and work on QAQC afterwards?

While we have CAMEO, WISER, NIOSH, ERGs, etc., each State is specific values in what is considered an exceedance. For me, I would feel more comfortable having a database/spreadsheet as a reference that lays out the state-specific values so that we know when to pull the trigger in releasing the data (i.e. send the data before QA or wait until after QA is complete). Also, we aren’t sure when to strongly emphasize the data to an OSC, “Hey, make sure the environmental unit sees this right now!” vs. “Yeah, doesn’t seem to be a big deal but pass the data along to the environmental unit for determination.” We definitely do not want to play the role as the decision maker—that’s not our intent nor mission. We just want to create a better partnership in helping the Regions. Know what I mean?

Hope all is well! Stay safe!

-Lyndsey

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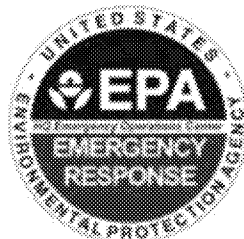
**From:** Loesel, Matthew <[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:52 PM

**To:** Assunto, Carmen <[Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov](mailto:Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov)>; Blanco, Arturo <[Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov](mailto:Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov)>; Boynton, Lisa <[Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov](mailto:Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov)>; Brooks, Christopher <[brooks.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:brooks.christopher@epa.gov)>; Burton, Terry <[Burton.Terry@epa.gov](mailto:Burton.Terry@epa.gov)>; Carroll, Craig <[Carroll.Craig@epa.gov](mailto:Carroll.Craig@epa.gov)>; Courtney Hoover <[courtney\\_hoover@ios.doi.gov](mailto:courtney_hoover@ios.doi.gov)>; Eoc, Epahq <[Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov](mailto:Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov)>; gbrown@hc-inc.net; Gray, David <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>; Hollier, Alice <[Hollier.Alice@epa.gov](mailto:Hollier.Alice@epa.gov)>; Hope, Ginny <[Hope.Ginny@epa.gov](mailto:Hope.Ginny@epa.gov)>; Irizarry, Gilberto <[Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov](mailto:Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov)>; LaBombard, Will <[LaBombard.Will@epa.gov](mailto:LaBombard.Will@epa.gov)>; Martin, John <[martin.john@epa.gov](mailto:martin.john@epa.gov)>; Mask, Kendra <[Mask.Kendra@epa.gov](mailto:Mask.Kendra@epa.gov)>; McAtee, Jeffrey <[McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov)>; McQueen, Ken <[McQueen.Ken@epa.gov](mailto:McQueen.Ken@epa.gov)>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <[Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov](mailto:Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov)>; Oh, Peter <[Oh.Peter@epa.gov](mailto:Oh.Peter@epa.gov)>; Paisley, Eric <[Paisley.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Paisley.Eric@epa.gov)>; R6 Deputy Division Directors <[R6\\_Deputy\\_Division\\_Directors@epa.gov](mailto:R6_Deputy_Division_Directors@epa.gov)>; R6 Division Directors <[R6\\_Division\\_Directors@epa.gov](mailto:R6_Division_Directors@epa.gov)>; R6 OSC <[R6\\_OSC@epa.gov](mailto:R6_OSC@epa.gov)>; Smith, Monica <[smith.monica@epa.gov](mailto:smith.monica@epa.gov)>; Spiers, Brett <[spiers.brett@epa.gov](mailto:spiers.brett@epa.gov)>; Stevens, Bill <[stevens.bill@epa.gov](mailto:stevens.bill@epa.gov)>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane <[Taheri.Diane@epa.gov](mailto:Taheri.Diane@epa.gov)>; Tanimura, Erin <[Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov](mailto:Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov)>; Tate, Samuel <[Tate.Samuel@epa.gov](mailto:Tate.Samuel@epa.gov)>; Tatum, Stephen <[Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov](mailto:Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov)>; Taylor, Jillianne <[Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov](mailto:Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov)>; Thompson, Henry <[Thompson.Henry@epa.gov](mailto:Thompson.Henry@epa.gov)>; Thompson, Steve <[thompson.steve@epa.gov](mailto:thompson.steve@epa.gov)>; Williams, Latrice <[Williams.Latrice@epa.gov](mailto:Williams.Latrice@epa.gov)>; Assunto, Carmen <[Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov](mailto:Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov)>; klindley@hc-inc.net

**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring.

TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H<sub>2</sub>S, and O<sub>2</sub>). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** The EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EOA START also visited the North Cottonwood Creek and reported that an earthen dam was constructed and a Vac Truck was on site. There was no sheening in the creek, just ash and foam. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>  
<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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***Matthew Loesel***

***U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator***

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (6SED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*loesel.matthew@epa.gov*



Message

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**From:** Daniel Ringhauser [dringhauser@GPTX.org]  
**Sent:** 8/20/2020 5:07:34 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Poly-America Fire Response

Received,

Thank you!

*Daniel Ringhauser*

Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator  
City of Grand Prairie  
1525 Arkansas Ln.  
Grand Prairie, TX 75052  
972-237-8344 – Office  
972-523-9144 – Cell  
[dringhauser@GPTX.org](mailto:dringhauser@GPTX.org)

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 12:05 PM  
**To:** Daniel Ringhauser <dringhauser@GPTX.org>; Office of Emergency Management <OEM@GPTX.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Poly-America Fire Response

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**From:** Loesel, Matthew  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:23 PM  
**To:** Cindy Mendez <Cmendez@GPTX.org>; [d.ringhauser@gptx.org](mailto:d.ringhauser@gptx.org)  
**Subject:** Poly-America Fire Response

Please see the following message regarding the preliminary data from our overflight this morning.

The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft found detections of isobutylene and 1-butene. ASPECT found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values on August 19, 2020. ASPECT has conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

If you have any questions or additional needs or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

*Matthew Loesel*

*U.S. EPA – Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

1201 Elm Street  
Suite 500 (6SED-EC)  
Dallas, Texas 75270  
(214) 738 0674 (mobile)

(214) 665 8544 (office)

[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)

Message

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**From:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/20/2020 3:00:36 PM  
**To:** Pearson, Kellon [Pearson.Kellon@epa.gov]; Martin, John [martin.john@epa.gov]; LaBombard, Will [LaBombard.Will@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Nguyen, Lyndsey [Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov]; Kaelin, Lawrence [Kaelin.Lawrence@epa.gov]; Taylor, Jillianne [Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov]; Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]; Edwards, Christine [Edwards.Christine@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: ASPECT Poly-America Fire Deployment, Grand Prairie, TX (SOW and IGCE) for December 18, 2019

Kellon – Do you have the Site ID and other needed information?

B

---

**From:** Pearson, Kellon <Pearson.Kellon@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 9:59 AM  
**To:** Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>; LaBombard, Will <LaBombard.Will@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>; Kaelin, Lawrence <Kaelin.Lawrence@epa.gov>; Taylor, Jillianne <Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov>; Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>; Edwards, Christine <Edwards.Christine@epa.gov>; Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: ASPECT Poly-America Fire Deployment, Grand Prairie, TX (SOW and IGCE) for December 18, 2019

Thanks.

Very Respectfully,

*Mr. Kellon Pearson*

//electronically signed//

US EPA Region 6

Superfund and Emergency Management Division  
Resources Management Branch, Resources Section

1201 Elm Street, Suite 500

Dallas, TX 75270-2102

P: (214) 665-8375

[pearson.kellon@epa.gov](mailto:pearson.kellon@epa.gov)

Flex day Monday

**He who fears he will suffer, already suffers because he fears.” — Michel De Montaigne.**

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**From:** Martin, John <[martin.john@epa.gov](mailto:martin.john@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 9:58 AM  
**To:** Pearson, Kellon <[Pearson.Kellon@epa.gov](mailto:Pearson.Kellon@epa.gov)>; LaBombard, Will <[LaBombard.Will@epa.gov](mailto:LaBombard.Will@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Nguyen, Lyndsey <[Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov](mailto:Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov)>; Kaelin, Lawrence <[Kaelin.Lawrence@epa.gov](mailto:Kaelin.Lawrence@epa.gov)>; Taylor, Jillianne <[Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov](mailto:Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov)>; Loesel, Matthew <[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)>; Edwards, Christine <[Edwards.Christine@epa.gov](mailto:Edwards.Christine@epa.gov)>; Smalley, Bryant <[smalley.bryant@epa.gov](mailto:smalley.bryant@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** ASPECT Poly-America Fire Deployment, Grand Prairie, TX (SOW and IGCE) for December 18, 2019

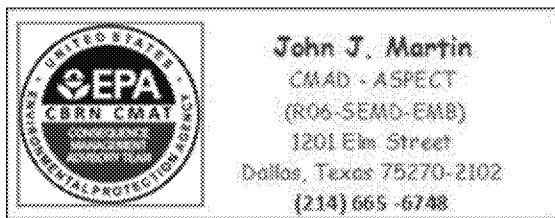
Good afternoon Kellon and Will,

Please find the attached SOW and IGCE for the Poly-America fire in Grand Prairie, TX for the ASPECT response on Wednesday August 19, 2020.

Contract: EP-W-12-005 TO #36

Let me know if you have any questions.

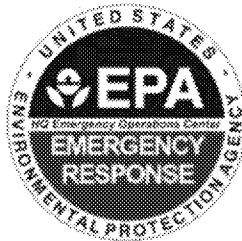
Thanks,  
John



**From:** Eoc, Epahq [Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 9:11:10 PM  
**Subject:** EOC Spot Report: Update 1 - Region 6 Poly-America Plant Fire

**This report is being sent as a bcc to prevent accidental Reply to All messages.**

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## **EOC Spot Report: Update 1 - Region 6, Poly-America Plant Fire**

**GRAND PRAIRIE, TX, NRC#1284921**

**US Environmental Protection Agency**

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 5:05 PM UTC*

**Overview:** On the evening of Tuesday, August 18th, a fire began at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie, TX. The fire will likely continue to burn throughout the day today and tomorrow. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility; it's believed that two rail cars are burning. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family. The facility reported that runoff from firefighting foam has entered North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** Local fire departments have responded and have established a IMT under unified command with the City of Grand Prairie and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) all of whom have deployed response assets.

TCEQ Air monitoring detects only particulate matter and no airborne toxins within the downwind plume. No readings have been detected for LEL, VOCs, CO, or H2S. TCEQ is working to hand-off air monitoring operations to RP contractors.

**EPA Actions:** The Incident Management Team has requested aerial air monitoring support from EPA CMAD. ASPECT has been deployed and will fly the scene and plume once flight restrictions from the nearby DFW airport are lifted.

R6 has dispatched a START contractor to assist in air monitoring in the local area. EPA Phone Duty Officer will continue to monitor the situation and remain in contact with the City of Grand Prairie and the State of Texas.

EPA CMAD ASPECT conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the site. Screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of TCEQ short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm). START contractors performed air monitoring at one upwind and two downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EOA START also visited the North Cottonwood Creek and reported that an earthen dam was constructed and a Vac Truck was on site. Ash and foam were observed in the creek water, but no sheen. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

**Media Interest:** Medium

**Media Links:**

<https://dfw.cbslocal.com/2020/08/19/fire-rages-manufacturing-plant-grand-prairie-poly-america/>

<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

<https://www.star-telegram.com/news/local/fort-worth/article245074000.html>

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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Nicholas Knowles, Senior Watch Officer  
U.S Environmental Protection Agency  
Headquarters Emergency Operations Center  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20460  
202-564-3850  
[eoc.epahq@epa.gov](mailto:eoc.epahq@epa.gov)

Message

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**From:** Loesel, Matthew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F2136F67BD8644149EF4883722E4DA9A-LOESEL, MATT]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 9:01:59 PM  
**To:** Orsak, Erik [erik\_orsak@fws.gov]; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov  
**CC:** Ruffino, Denise [denise\_ruffino@fws.gov]; Courtney Hoover [courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov]; Scida, Pasquale J [pasquale\_scida@ios.doi.gov]; Adam Whisenant [adam.whisenant@tpwd.texas.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

Thank you

---

**From:** Orsak, Erik <erik\_orsak@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:01 PM  
**To:** susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Ruffino, Denise <denise\_ruffino@fws.gov>; Courtney Hoover <courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov>; Scida, Pasquale J <pasquale\_scida@ios.doi.gov>; Adam Whisenant <adam.whisenant@tpwd.texas.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

Susan and Matt,

Thank you for the notification and updates on the subject spill. This looks like a doozy, but given the urban landscape, I believe impacts to federally listed species are unlikely. The list of T&E species for the area is provided below, all birds that are unlikely to be in the area on any given day, much less during a 5 alarm fire and all the activity that brings. The migration of foam retardant to Cottonwood Creek is unfortunate and depending on volume released and how far downstream it migrates, it could potentially affect fish and wildlife that utilize Mountain Creek Lake, but the likelihood of that happening is hard to tell at the moment.

Bottom line at this time, based on the information I have, is no further action required. However, please notify our office if you determine migratory birds may be impacted. I have also cc'd Adam Whisenant with the TPWD Kills and Spills team so they are aware.

Thanks again for coordinating with our office.

Best,

Erik

## . Birds

- 
- NAME  
STATUS
  - Golden-cheeked Warbler (=wood)Dendroica chrysoparia  
Endangered
  - Least TernSterna antillarum  
Endangered
  - Piping PloverCHCharadrius melodus

---

Threatened

- Red Knot *Calidris canutus rufa*

---

Threatened

- Whooping Crane *Grus americana*

---

Endangered

No Critical Habitat in Grand Prairie area.

Erik Orsak | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Arlington TX Ecological Services Field Office | 2005 NE Green Oaks Blvd, Suite 140,  
Arlington TX | 817-277-1100 Office | 702-443-4795 Cell

---

**From:** King, Susan E <[susan\\_king@ios.doi.gov](mailto:susan_king@ios.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 10:25 AM

**To:** Loesel, Matthew <[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Orsak, Erik <[erik\\_orsak@fws.gov](mailto:erik_orsak@fws.gov)>; Ruffino, Denise <[denise\\_ruffino@fws.gov](mailto:denise_ruffino@fws.gov)>; Hoover, Courtney L  
<[courtney\\_hoover@ios.doi.gov](mailto:courtney_hoover@ios.doi.gov)>; Scida, Pasquale J <[pasquale\\_scida@ios.doi.gov](mailto:pasquale_scida@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

Matthew,

I'd sent the NRC notification on to FWS and then this spot report- to Erik Orsak and Denise Ruffino, our contaminants biologists. They're the go-to folks as to whether FWS resources are affected; I just thought I should close the loop with you that we've received.

Susan King

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 19, 2020, at 8:22 AM, Loesel, Matthew <[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)> wrote:

|   |
|---|
| <p>This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.</p> |
|---|

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<image003.jpg>

## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire



## US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 10:19 AM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie will likely continue to burn throughout the day and tomorrow. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility; it's believed that two rail cars are burning. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** Local fire departments have deployed to the site and are fighting the fire. In addition the City of Grand Prairie has an environmental contractor ready as needed. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has deployed personnel as well as their contractor to engage in ground level air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** Based on a request from Grand Prairie, the EPA ASPECT plane has been activated and will fly the scene and plume as soon as flight restrictions from the near-by DFW airport are worked through.

In addition, the START contractor has been activated to assist in air monitoring in the local area. EPA Phone Duty Officer will continue to monitor the situation and remain in contact with the City of Grand Prairie and the State of Texas.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wbap.com/2020/08/19/breaking-massive-fire-at-poly-america-plant-in-grand-prairie-threatens-businesses/>  
<https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

*Matthew Loesel*

*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (6SED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*loesel.matthew@epa.gov*

Message

---

**From:** Orsak, Erik [erik\_orsak@fws.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 9:01:00 PM  
**To:** susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Ruffino, Denise [denise\_ruffino@fws.gov]; Courtney Hoover [courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov]; Scida, Pasquale J [pasquale\_scida@ios.doi.gov]; Adam Whisenant [adam.whisenant@tpwd.texas.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

Susan and Matt,

Thank you for the notification and updates on the subject spill. This looks like a doozy, but given the urban landscape, I believe impacts to federally listed species are unlikely. The list of T&E species for the area is provided below, all birds that are unlikely to be in the area on any given day, much less during a 5 alarm fire and all the activity that brings. The migration of foam retardant to Cottonwood Creek is unfortunate and depending on volume released and how far downstream it migrates, it could potentially affect fish and wildlife that utilize Mountain Creek Lake, but the likelihood of that happening is hard to tell at the moment.

Bottom line at this time, based on the information I have, is no further action required. However, please notify our office if you determine migratory birds may be impacted. I have also cc'd Adam Whisenant with the TPWD Kills and Spills team so they are aware.

Thanks again for coordinating with our office.

Best,

Erik

## . Birds

- | NAME                           | STATUS                |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Golden-cheeked Warbler (=wood) | Dendroica chrysoparia |
|                                | Endangered            |
| Least Tern                     | Sterna antillarum     |
|                                | Endangered            |
| Piping Plover                  | Charadrius melodus    |
|                                | Threatened            |
| Red Knot                       | Calidris canutus rufa |
|                                | Threatened            |
| Whooping Crane                 | Grus americana        |
|                                | Endangered            |

No Critical Habitat in Grand Prairie area.

Erik Orsak | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Arlington TX Ecological Services Field Office | 2005 NE Green Oaks Blvd, Suite 140,  
Arlington TX | 817-277-1100 Office | 702-443-4795 Cell

---

**From:** King, Susan E <susan\_king@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 10:25 AM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Orsak, Erik <erik\_orsak@fws.gov>; Ruffino, Denise <denise\_ruffino@fws.gov>; Hoover, Courtney L <courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov>; Scida, Pasquale J <pasquale\_scida@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

Matthew,

I'd sent the NRC notification on to FWS and then this spot report- to Erik Orsak and Denise Ruffino, our contaminants biologists. They're the go-to folks as to whether FWS resources are affected; I just thought I should close the loop with you that we've received.

Susan King

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 19, 2020, at 8:22 AM, Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov> wrote:

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

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<image003.jpg>

## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

**US Environmental Protection Agency**

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 10:19 AM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie will likely continue to burn throughout the day and tomorrow. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility;

it's believed that two rail cars are burning. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** Local fire departments have deployed to the site and are fighting the fire. In addition the City of Grand Prairie has an environmental contractor ready as needed. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has deployed personnel as well as their contractor to engage in ground level air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** Based on a request from Grand Prairie, the EPA ASPECT plane has been activated and will fly the scene and plume as soon as flight restrictions from the near-by DFW airport are worked through.

In addition, the START contractor has been activated to assist in air monitoring in the local area. EPA Phone Duty Officer will continue to monitor the situation and remain in contact with the City of Grand Prairie and the State of Texas.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wbap.com/2020/08/19/breaking-massive-fire-at-poly-america-plant-in-grand-prairie-threatens-businesses/>  
<https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

*1201 Elm Street*

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*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*

**From:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 8:51:37 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen [Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov]; Blanco, Arturo [Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov]; Boynton, Lisa [Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov]; Brooks, Christopher [brooks.christopher@epa.gov]; Burton, Terry [Burton.Terry@epa.gov]; Carroll, Craig [Carroll.Craig@epa.gov]; Courtney Hoover [courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov]; Eoc, Epahq [Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov]; gbrown@hc-inc.net; Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]; Hollier, Alice [Hollier.Alice@epa.gov]; Hope, Ginny [Hope.Ginny@epa.gov]; Irizarry, Gilberto [Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov]; LaBombard, Will [LaBombard.Will@epa.gov]; Martin, John [martin.john@epa.gov]; Mask, Kendra [Mask.Kendra@epa.gov]; McAtee, Jeffrey [McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov]; McQueen, Ken [McQueen.Ken@epa.gov]; Nguyen, Lyndsey [Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov]; Oh, Peter [Oh.Peter@epa.gov]; Paisley, Eric [Paisley.Eric@epa.gov]; R6 Deputy Division Directors [R6\_Deputy\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov]; R6 Division Directors [R6\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov]; R6 OSC [R6\_OSC@epa.gov]; Smith, Monica [smith.monica@epa.gov]; Spiers, Brett [spiers.brett@epa.gov]; Stevens, Bill [stevens.bill@epa.gov]; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane [Taheri.Diane@epa.gov]; Tanimura, Erin [Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov]; Tate, Samuel [Tate.Samuel@epa.gov]; Tatum, Stephen [Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov]; Taylor, Jillianne [Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov]; Thompson, Henry [Thompson.Henry@epa.gov]; Thompson, Steve [thompson.steve@epa.gov]; Williams, Latrice [Williams.Latrice@epa.gov]; Assunto, Carmen [Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov]; klindley@hc-inc.net  
**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

### US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring.

TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m3) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150 µg/m3. No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H2S, and O2). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** The EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EOA START also visited the North Cottonwood Creek and reported that an earthen dam was constructed and a Vac Truck was on site. There was no sheening in the creek, just ash and foam. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>  
<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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*Matthew Loesel*

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*1201 Elm Street*

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*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*

Message

---

**From:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 8:49:31 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: How is this

Perfect – Let me know if you want my help. Please include Carmen on distribution list.

B

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:46 PM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: How is this

START said they saw ash/foam in the creek – trucks there creating earthen dam and vac truck for the foam. I will add to Update

---

**From:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:45 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** How is this

Matt – anybody following up on North Cottonwood creek?

Poly-America Fire Response Spot Report Update:

Overview - A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring. TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H<sub>2</sub>S, and O<sub>2</sub>). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

The EPAs Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-



term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

***Matthew Loesel***

***U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator***

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (6SED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*loesel.matthew@epa.gov*

Message

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**From:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 8:44:41 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** How is this

Matt – anybody following up on North Cottonwood creek?

**Poly-America Fire Response Spot Report Update:**

Overview - A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring.

TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H2S, and O2). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

The EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

***Matthew Loesel***

***U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator***

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*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*

Message

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F2136F67BD8644149EF4883722E4DA9A-LOESEL, MATT]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 8:44:21 PM  
**To:** Gary Sinclair [Gary.Sinclair@tceq.texas.gov]; Kelly Cook [kelly.cook@tceq.texas.gov]  
**CC:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]; Carroll, Craig [Carroll.Craig@epa.gov]; Petersen, Chris [petersen.chris@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Poly-America Fire Response - ASPECT data

Please see the following message regarding the preliminary data from our overflight this morning.

The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft found detections of isobutylene and 1-butene. ASPECT found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values on August 19, 2020. ASPECT has conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

If you have any questions or additional needs or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

*Matthew Loesel*

*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

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*Suite 500 (65ED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*

Message

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**From:** Cindy Mendez [Cmendez@GPTX.org]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 8:24:38 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]; d.ringhauser@gptx.org  
**Subject:** RE: Poly-America Fire Response

Thank you.

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:23 PM  
**To:** Cindy Mendez <Cmendez@GPTX.org>; d.ringhauser@gptx.org  
**Subject:** Poly-America Fire Response

Please see the following message regarding the preliminary data from our overflight this morning.

The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft found detections of isobutylene and 1-butene. ASPECT found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values on August 19, 2020. ASPECT has conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

If you have any questions or additional needs or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

*Matthew Loesel*  
*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*  
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*Dallas, Texas 75270*  
*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*  
*(214) 665 8544 (office)*  
[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)

Message

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F2136F67BD8644149EF4883722E4DA9A-LOESEL, MATT]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 8:22:34 PM  
**To:** Cindy Mendez [Cmendez@GPTX.org]; d.ringhauser@gptx.org  
**BCC:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Poly-America Fire Response

Please see the following message regarding the preliminary data from our overflight this morning.

The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft found detections of isobutylene and 1-butene. ASPECT found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values on August 19, 2020. ASPECT has conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

If you have any questions or additional needs or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

*Matthew Loesel*

*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

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*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*

Message

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F2136F67BD8644149EF4883722E4DA9A-LOESEL, MATT]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 8:18:35 PM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Please review

Overview - A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring. In addition, TCEQ requested that Poly-America contract their own air monitoring teams to determine if off-site receptors are impacted by this incident and evaluate appropriate responses. They requested Poly-America monitor for the following constituents downwind: particulate matter, LEL, VOCs, CO, H<sub>2</sub>S, and O<sub>2</sub>. The locations/distances would depend on the concentrations detected and monitoring should continue until the fire is under control and smoke is not leaving the property

EPA Actions - EPA's ASPECT aircraft detected isobutylene and 1-butene. ASPECT found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values on August 19, 2020. ASPECT has conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America.

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

***Matthew Loesel***

***U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator***

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*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

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[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)

Message

---

**From:** Rauscher, Jon [Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 8:12:53 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]; Turner, Philip [Turner.Philip@epa.gov]; Hidalgo, Chelsea [Hidalgo.Chelsea@epa.gov]; david.cook@westonsolutions.com; Cook, Brenda [cook.brenda@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Poly-America Fire Response

ASPECT:

The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft found detections of isobutylene and 1-butene. ASPECT found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values on August 19, 2020. ASPECT has conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Message

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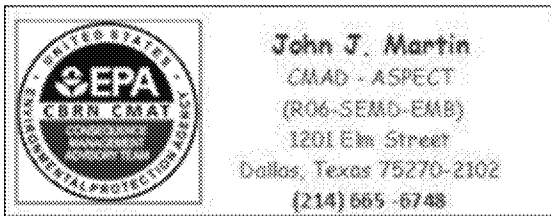
**From:** Loesel, Matthew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F2136F67BD8644149EF4883722E4DA9A-LOESEL, MATT]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 6:37:17 PM  
**To:** Rauscher, Jon [Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov]; Turner, Philip [Turner.Philip@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Preliminary Poly-America Fire Response  
**Attachments:** Poly America Fire Brief Summary.pdf; Poly America Fire Brief Summary.docx

---

**From:** Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 1:36 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>; Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Taylor, Jillianne <Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>; Kaelin, Lawrence <Kaelin.Lawrence@epa.gov>; Perovich, Gina <Perovich.Gina@epa.gov>; Waltzer, Sam <Waltzer.Sam@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Preliminary Poly-America Fire Response

Here's our Preliminary Brief Report. A more formal report will be forthcoming.

Any questions or anything we can help with, let us know---jjm





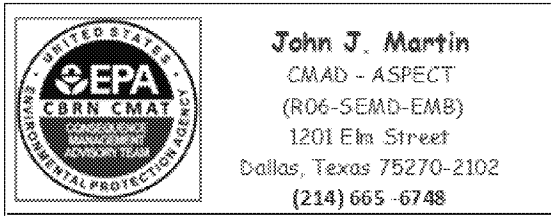
Message

---

**From:** Martin, John [martin.john@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 6:36:00 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]; Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Taylor, Jillianne [Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov]; Nguyen, Lyndsey [Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov]; Kaelin, Lawrence [Kaelin.Lawrence@epa.gov]; Perovich, Gina [Perovich.Gina@epa.gov]; Waltzer, Sam [Waltzer.Sam@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Preliminary Poly-America Fire Response  
**Attachments:** Poly America Fire Brief Summary.pdf; Poly America Fire Brief Summary.docx

Here's our Preliminary Brief Report. A more formal report will be forthcoming.

Any questions or anything we can help with, let us know---jjm



Message

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F2136F67BD8644149EF4883722E4DA9A-LOESEL, MATT]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 6:22:52 PM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

Just talked with Start they have negligible readings – nothing significant. Also talked with TCEQ they are sending email to get RP out there with contractor monitoring

---

**From:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 1:19 PM  
**To:** Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

John – do you have an ETA on a report? Or Preliminary data? Our EU is asking.

B

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:57 AM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

Yes

---

**From:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:56 AM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

This was the R6 Response Notify group?

B

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:29 AM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

Not sure who has control of groups

---

**From:** Greg Brown <gbrown@hc-inc.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:27 AM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

Matt,

Please add [klindley@hc-inc.net](mailto:klindley@hc-inc.net) (Kyle) to you email distribution list please. He is the new warehouse manager at the Addison Facility.

Respectfully,

Greg Brown, Corporate Portfolio Manager

HCI | integrated solutions

15310 Amberly Drive, Suite 250 | Tampa, Florida 33647

(m) 910.988.8749 |(t) 703.537.3151

(e) [gbrown@hc-inc.net](mailto:gbrown@hc-inc.net) | (w) <http://www.hc-inc.net>

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:21 AM

**To:** Assunto, Carmen <[Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov](mailto:Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov)>; Blanco, Arturo <[Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov](mailto:Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov)>; Boynton, Lisa <[Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov](mailto:Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov)>; Brooks, Christopher <[brooks.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:brooks.christopher@epa.gov)>; Burton, Terry <[Burton.Terry@epa.gov](mailto:Burton.Terry@epa.gov)>; Carroll, Craig <[Carroll.Craig@epa.gov](mailto:Carroll.Craig@epa.gov)>; Courtney Hoover <[courtney\\_hoover@ios.doi.gov](mailto:courtney_hoover@ios.doi.gov)>; Eoc, Epahq <[Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov](mailto:Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov)>; Greg Brown <[gbrown@hc-inc.net](mailto:gbrown@hc-inc.net)>; Gray, David <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>; Hollier, Alice <[Hollier.Alice@epa.gov](mailto:Hollier.Alice@epa.gov)>; Hope, Ginny <[Hope.Ginny@epa.gov](mailto:Hope.Ginny@epa.gov)>; Irizarry, Gilberto <[Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov](mailto:Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov)>; LaBombard, Will <[LaBombard.Will@epa.gov](mailto:LaBombard.Will@epa.gov)>; Martin, John <[martin.john@epa.gov](mailto:martin.john@epa.gov)>; Mask, Kendra <[Mask.Kendra@epa.gov](mailto:Mask.Kendra@epa.gov)>; McAtee, Jeffrey <[McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov)>; McQueen, Ken <[McQueen.Ken@epa.gov](mailto:McQueen.Ken@epa.gov)>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <[Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov](mailto:Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov)>; Oh, Peter <[Oh.Peter@epa.gov](mailto:Oh.Peter@epa.gov)>; Paisley, Eric <[Paisley.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Paisley.Eric@epa.gov)>; R6 Deputy Division Directors <[R6\\_Deputy\\_Division\\_Directors@epa.gov](mailto:R6_Deputy_Division_Directors@epa.gov)>; R6 Division Directors <[R6\\_Division\\_Directors@epa.gov](mailto:R6_Division_Directors@epa.gov)>; R6 OSC <[R6\\_OSC@epa.gov](mailto:R6_OSC@epa.gov)>; Smith, Monica <[smith.monica@epa.gov](mailto:smith.monica@epa.gov)>; Spiers, Brett <[spiers.brett@epa.gov](mailto:spiers.brett@epa.gov)>; Stevens, Bill <[stevens.bill@epa.gov](mailto:stevens.bill@epa.gov)>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov <[susan\\_king@ios.doi.gov](mailto:susan_king@ios.doi.gov)>; Taheri, Diane <[Taheri.Diane@epa.gov](mailto:Taheri.Diane@epa.gov)>; Tanimura, Erin <[Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov](mailto:Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov)>; Tates, Samuel <[Tates.Samuel@epa.gov](mailto:Tates.Samuel@epa.gov)>; Tatum, Stephen <[Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov](mailto:Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov)>; Taylor, Jillianne <[Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov](mailto:Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov)>; Thompson, Henry <[Thompson.Henry@epa.gov](mailto:Thompson.Henry@epa.gov)>; Thompson, Steve <[thompson.steve@epa.gov](mailto:thompson.steve@epa.gov)>; Williams, Latrice <[Williams.Latrice@epa.gov](mailto:Williams.Latrice@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

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# Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 10:19 AM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie will likely continue to burn throughout the day and tomorrow. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility; it's believed that two rail cars are burning. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** Local fire departments have deployed to the site and are fighting the fire. In addition the City of Grand Prairie has an environmental contractor ready as needed. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has deployed personnel as well as their contractor to engage in ground level air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** Based on a request from Grand Prairie, the EPA ASPECT plane has been activated and will fly the scene and plume as soon as flight restrictions from the near-by DFW airport are worked through.

In addition, the START contractor has been activated to assist in air monitoring in the local area. EPA Phone Duty Officer will continue to monitor the situation and remain in contact with the City of Grand Prairie and the State of Texas.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wbap.com/2020/08/19/breaking-massive-fire-at-poly-america-plant-in-grand-prairie-threatens-businesses/>  
<https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

*Matthew Loesel*

*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (6SED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*loesel.matthew@epa.gov*

Message

---

**From:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 6:19:24 PM  
**To:** Martin, John [martin.john@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

John – do you have an ETA on a report? Or Preliminary data? Our EU is asking.

B

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:57 AM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

Yes

---

**From:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:56 AM  
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**Subject:** RE: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

This was the R6 Response Notify group?

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---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:29 AM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

Not sure who has control of groups

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**From:** Greg Brown <gbrown@hc-inc.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:27 AM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

Matt,

Please add [klindley@hc-inc.net](mailto:klindley@hc-inc.net) (Kyle) to you email distribution list please. He is the new warehouse manager at the Addison Facility.

Respectfully,

Greg Brown, Corporate Portfolio Manager

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(m) 910.988.8749 |(t) 703.537.3151

(e) [gbrown@hc-inc.net](mailto:gbrown@hc-inc.net) | (w) <http://www.hc-inc.net>

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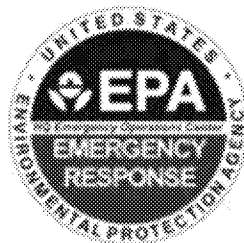
**From:** Loesel, Matthew <[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:21 AM

**To:** Assunto, Carmen <[Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov](mailto:Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov)>; Blanco, Arturo <[Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov](mailto:Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov)>; Boynton, Lisa <[Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov](mailto:Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov)>; Brooks, Christopher <[brooks.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:brooks.christopher@epa.gov)>; Burton, Terry <[Burton.Terry@epa.gov](mailto:Burton.Terry@epa.gov)>; Carroll, Craig <[Carroll.Craig@epa.gov](mailto:Carroll.Craig@epa.gov)>; Courtney Hoover <[courtney\\_hoover@ios.doi.gov](mailto:courtney_hoover@ios.doi.gov)>; Eoc, Epahq <[Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov](mailto:Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov)>; Greg Brown <[gbrown@hc-inc.net](mailto:gbrown@hc-inc.net)>; Gray, David <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>; Hollier, Alice <[Hollier.Alice@epa.gov](mailto:Hollier.Alice@epa.gov)>; Hope, Ginny <[Hope.Ginny@epa.gov](mailto:Hope.Ginny@epa.gov)>; Irizarry, Gilberto <[Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov](mailto:Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov)>; LaBombard, Will <[LaBombard.Will@epa.gov](mailto:LaBombard.Will@epa.gov)>; Martin, John <[martin.john@epa.gov](mailto:martin.john@epa.gov)>; Mask, Kendra <[Mask.Kendra@epa.gov](mailto:Mask.Kendra@epa.gov)>; McAtee, Jeffrey <[McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov)>; McQueen, Ken <[McQueen.Ken@epa.gov](mailto:McQueen.Ken@epa.gov)>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <[Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov](mailto:Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov)>; Oh, Peter <[Oh.Peter@epa.gov](mailto:Oh.Peter@epa.gov)>; Paisley, Eric <[Paisley.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Paisley.Eric@epa.gov)>; R6 Deputy Division Directors <[R6\\_Deputy\\_Division\\_Directors@epa.gov](mailto:R6_Deputy_Division_Directors@epa.gov)>; R6 Division Directors <[R6\\_Division\\_Directors@epa.gov](mailto:R6_Division_Directors@epa.gov)>; R6 OSC <[R6\\_OSC@epa.gov](mailto:R6_OSC@epa.gov)>; Smith, Monica <[smith.monica@epa.gov](mailto:smith.monica@epa.gov)>; Spiers, Brett <[spiers.brett@epa.gov](mailto:spiers.brett@epa.gov)>; Stevens, Bill <[stevens.bill@epa.gov](mailto:stevens.bill@epa.gov)>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov <[susan\\_king@ios.doi.gov](mailto:susan_king@ios.doi.gov)>; Taheri, Diane <[Taheri.Diane@epa.gov](mailto:Taheri.Diane@epa.gov)>; Tanimura, Erin <[Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov](mailto:Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov)>; Tates, Samuel <[Tates.Samuel@epa.gov](mailto:Tates.Samuel@epa.gov)>; Tatum, Stephen <[Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov](mailto:Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov)>; Taylor, Jillianne <[Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov](mailto:Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov)>; Thompson, Henry <[Thompson.Henry@epa.gov](mailto:Thompson.Henry@epa.gov)>; Thompson, Steve <[thompson.steve@epa.gov](mailto:thompson.steve@epa.gov)>; Williams, Latrice <[Williams.Latrice@epa.gov](mailto:Williams.Latrice@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date:** 8/19/2020

*Last edited 8/19/2020 10:19 AM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie will likely continue to burn throughout the day and tomorrow. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility; it's believed that two rail cars are burning. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** Local fire departments have deployed to the site and are fighting the fire. In addition the City of Grand Prairie has an environmental contractor ready as needed. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has deployed personnel as well as their contractor to engage in ground level air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** Based on a request from Grand Prairie, the EPA ASPECT plane has been activated and will fly the scene and plume as soon as flight restrictions from the near-by DFW airport are worked through.

In addition, the START contractor has been activated to assist in air monitoring in the local area. EPA Phone Duty Officer will continue to monitor the situation and remain in contact with the City of Grand Prairie and the State of Texas.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wbap.com/2020/08/19/breaking-massive-fire-at-poly-america-plant-in-grand-prairie-threatens-businesses/>  
<https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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*Matthew Loesel*

*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (65ED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

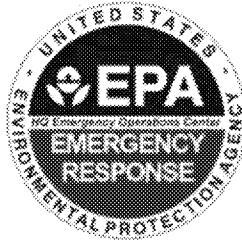
*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*



**From:** Knowles, Nicholas [knowles.nicholas@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 2:40:56 PM  
**Subject:** EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Poly-America Plant Fire, Grand Prairie, TX

**This report is being sent as a bcc to prevent accidental Reply to All messages.**

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## **EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Poly-America Plant Fire**

**GRAND PRAIRIE, TX, NRC#1284921**

**US Environmental Protection Agency**

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 10:31 AM UTC*

**Overview:** On the evening of Tuesday, August 18th, a fire started at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie, TX. The facility manufactures and stores plastic pellets. The fire will likely continue to burn throughout the day today and tomorrow. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers respiratory problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. It is believed that two rail cars are burning. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family. The facility reported runoff of firefighting foam that has entered North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** Local fire departments have responded and have established a IMT under unified command with the City of Grand Prairie and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality all of whom have deployed response assets. DHS IMAAC, Ft. Belvoir, is providing plume modeling support.

**EPA Actions:** The Incident Management Team has requested aerial air monitoring support from EPA CMAD. ASPECT has been deployed and will fly the scene and plume once flight restrictions from the nearby DFW airport are lifted.

R6 has dispatched a START contractor to assist in air monitoring in the local area. EPA Phone Duty Officer will continue to monitor the situation and remain in contact with the City of Grand Prairie and the State of Texas.

**Media Interest:** Medium

**Media Links:**

<https://www.wbap.com/2020/08/19/breaking-massive-fire-at-poly-america-plant-in-grand-prairie-threatens-businesses/>

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/2020/08/19/grand-prairie-firefighters-battling-massive-industrial-blaze/>

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/texas-plant-fire-grand-prairie>

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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Nicholas Knowles, Senior Watch Officer  
U.S Environmental Protection Agency  
Headquarters Emergency Operations Center  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20460  
202-564-3850  
eoc.epahq@epa.gov

**From:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 2:21:44 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen [Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov]; Blanco, Arturo [Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov]; Boynton, Lisa [Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov]; Brooks, Christopher [brooks.christopher@epa.gov]; Burton, Terry [Burton.Terry@epa.gov]; Carroll, Craig [Carroll.Craig@epa.gov]; Courtney Hoover [courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov]; Eoc, Epahq [Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov]; gbrown@hc-inc.net; Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]; Hollier, Alice [Hollier.Alice@epa.gov]; Hope, Ginny [Hope.Ginny@epa.gov]; Irizarry, Gilberto [Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov]; LaBombard, Will [LaBombard.Will@epa.gov]; Martin, John [martin.john@epa.gov]; Mask, Kendra [Mask.Kendra@epa.gov]; McAtee, Jeffrey [McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov]; McQueen, Ken [McQueen.Ken@epa.gov]; Nguyen, Lyndsey [Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov]; Oh, Peter [Oh.Peter@epa.gov]; Paisley, Eric [Paisley.Eric@epa.gov]; R6 Deputy Division Directors [R6\_Deputy\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov]; R6 Division Directors [R6\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov]; R6 OSC [R6\_OSC@epa.gov]; Smith, Monica [smith.monica@epa.gov]; Spiers, Brett [spiers.brett@epa.gov]; Stevens, Bill [stevens.bill@epa.gov]; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane [Taheri.Diane@epa.gov]; Tanimura, Erin [Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov]; Tate, Samuel [Tate.Samuel@epa.gov]; Tatum, Stephen [Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov]; Taylor, Jillianne [Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov]; Thompson, Henry [Thompson.Henry@epa.gov]; Thompson, Steve [thompson.steve@epa.gov]; Williams, Latrice [Williams.Latrice@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Grand Prairie Fire Spot Report

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

### US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 10:19 AM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie will likely continue to burn throughout the day and tomorrow. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility; it's believed that two rail cars are burning. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** Local fire departments have deployed to the site and are fighting the fire. In addition the City of Grand Prairie has an environmental contractor ready

as needed. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has deployed personnel as well as their contractor to engage in ground level air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** Based on a request from Grand Prairie, the EPA ASPECT plane has been activated and will fly the scene and plume as soon as flight restrictions from the near-by DFW airport are worked through.

In addition, the START contractor has been activated to assist in air monitoring in the local area. EPA Phone Duty Officer will continue to monitor the situation and remain in contact with the City of Grand Prairie and the State of Texas.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wbap.com/2020/08/19/breaking-massive-fire-at-poly-america-plant-in-grand-prairie-threatens-businesses/>  
<https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

***Matthew Loesel***

***U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator***

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (65ED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*loesel.matthew@epa.gov*

Message

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F2136F67BD8644149EF4883722E4DA9A-LOESEL, MATT]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 12:27:57 PM  
**To:** Stenger, Wren [stenger.wren@epa.gov]; Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]; Carroll, Craig [Carroll.Craig@epa.gov]; Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]; McQueen, Ken [McQueen.Ken@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Petersen, Chris [petersen.chris@epa.gov]; Fisher, Bray [fisher.kelsey@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: WFAA, Massive plastic fire continues to burn hours after it started at factory in Grand Prairie

ASPECT has been officially requested and is in process of getting going.

---

**From:** Stenger, Wren <stenger.wren@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 7:27 AM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; McQueen, Ken <McQueen.Ken@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Petersen, Chris <petersen.chris@epa.gov>; Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>; Fisher, Bray <fisher.kelsey@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: WFAA, Massive plastic fire continues to burn hours after it started at factory in Grand Prairie

Adding Ken.

**WREN STENGER**  
**DIRECTOR, SUPERFUND AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
**EPA REGION 6 DALLAS, TEXAS**  
**214.685.6583**

---

**From:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 7:24 AM  
**To:** Stenger, Wren <stenger.wren@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Petersen, Chris <petersen.chris@epa.gov>; Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>; Fisher, Bray <fisher.kelsey@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** WFAA, Massive plastic fire continues to burn hours after it started at factory in Grand Prairie

EPA learned through news sources this morning of the Fire described below. Our Phone Duty Officer has reached out to TCEQ, who was unaware of the incident, and is coordinating needed assistance with the State and local responders. The Fire Chief has contacted EPA and inquired about the use of EPAs ASPECT Aircraft. ASPECT Staff have been notified and are preparing for flight. We will provide further updates as they become available.

Bryant

<https://www.wfaa.com/mobile/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>

## Massive plastic fire continues to burn hours after it started at factory in Grand Prairie

Details of the fire are not known. WFAA has reached out to local officials for more information.

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — *This is a breaking news story and will be updated.*

A massive fire broke out at the Poly-America factory in Grand Prairie around midnight Wednesday morning and is still burning hours later.

Some residents may need to self-evacuate if they feel in danger, Grand Prairie officials said. They are currently trying to do a reverse 911 call out to make residents in the area aware, but no official evacuations have been declared.

No injuries have been reported, according to officials, but the factory did have a night shift crew present at the time the fire broke out.

At least two fire departments, Grand Prairie and Cedar Hill, were on scene, as well as the DFW Airport foam sprayer.

Many have reported that the fire and smoke can be seen for miles. The smoke appeared on a WFAA weather camera in Denton, about 40 miles away from the scene.

Smoke from the fire is headed west and is a combustion from plastic, so it's not good to breathe in for people who live in the area, Grand Prairie officials said. Those with underlying conditions should avoid the area if possible.

## **Massive fire breaks out at Poly-America in Grand Prairie**

1 / 20

## **What's burning at the Poly-America factory in Grand Prairie?**

Headquartered in Grand Prairie, Poly-America produces polyethylene products, including trash bags and plastic sheeting, and recycles and compounds polyethylene, according to its website.

The main issues for crews right now are area logistics and the nature of plastic fires being difficult to put out, officials said. One of their obstacles is the train tracks that lie between their units and the building.

Fork lifts are currently being used to create a fire break and slow its spread.

WFAA crews at the scene said there was no obvious odor and estimated the size of the fire to be around a football field.

Grand Prairie officials said they had shut down the President George Bush Turnpike as they are afraid power line towers seen in the fire are going to pull power lines down over the turnpike if they collapse. The base of one of them has buckled already.

The fire began after those high-tension power lines fell into the plastic inventory below, fire officials said.

Crews had been at the scene for almost six hours as of 5:45 a.m. and authorities needed to bring in fuel trucks to maintain their presence fighting the fire.

A shift change will occur at 7 a.m., but fire officials are working out how to keep the scene staffed as they believe their efforts could go well into Thursday to put out the blaze.

The same exact scenario happened 32 years ago, Grand Prairie officials said, and it took a full day for the crews to put out that fire.

## **Grand Prairie factory fire's effect on traffic, weather and power**

The company's headquarters are located at 2000 W Marshall Drive.

Some of the roadways in the area are blocked to traffic.

Grand Prairie officials said the President George Bush Turnpike was shut down from Interstate 20 to Interstate 30 in both directions. Spur 303 is also shut down in between President George Bush Turnpike and Highway 360, as well as sections of West Marshall Drive and Great Southwest Parkway near the factory.

Grand Prairie police said heavy traffic delays are expected in the area and are advising drivers to seek alternate routes for their morning commute.

The massive plume of smoke had actually also partially affected temperatures in the Grand Prairie area and was caught on weather radars, Meteorologist Greg Fields said.

There were several power outages reported in the area according to Oncor, but it is not known if they're tied to the fire. WFAA has reached out to Oncor for more information.

**From:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 12:23:53 PM  
**To:** Stenger, Wren [stenger.wren@epa.gov]; Carroll, Craig [Carroll.Craig@epa.gov]; Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Petersen, Chris [petersen.chris@epa.gov]; Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]; Fisher, Bray [fisher.kelsey@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** WFAA, Massive plastic fire continues to burn hours after it started at factory in Grand Prairie

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Message

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**From:** Assunto, Carmen [Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 10:31:15 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Just following up. Yes. I modified a bit, then sent to EJ. All completed. C

On Aug 19, 2020, at 3:54 PM, Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov> wrote:

Many thanks. Most of the reports I get from yall for externals are called Management Reports. I'm not sure I've done a spot report before. I will have to get clearance, for real, for this to go out.

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:53 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

For you of course

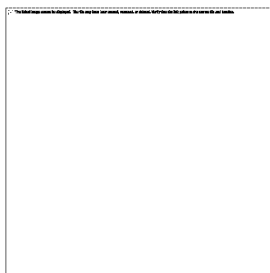
---

**From:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:53 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Is there a Microsoft doc I can work with on this?

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:52 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Boynton, Lisa <Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov>; Brooks, Christopher <brooks.christopher@epa.gov>; Burton, Terry <Burton.Terry@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Courtney Hoover <courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov>; Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>; gbrown@hc-inc.net; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Hollier, Alice <Hollier.Alice@epa.gov>; Hope, Ginny <Hope.Ginny@epa.gov>; Irizarry, Gilberto <Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov>; LaBombard, Will <LaBombard.Will@epa.gov>; Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>; Mask, Kendra <Mask.Kendra@epa.gov>; McAtee, Jeffrey <McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; McQueen, Ken <McQueen.Ken@epa.gov>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>; Oh, Peter <Oh.Peter@epa.gov>; Paisley, Eric <Paisley.Eric@epa.gov>; R6 Deputy Division Directors <R6\_Deputy\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 Division Directors <R6\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 OSC <R6\_OSC@epa.gov>; Smith, Monica <smith.monica@epa.gov>; Spiers, Brett <spiers.brett@epa.gov>; Stevens, Bill <stevens.bill@epa.gov>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Tanimura, Erin <Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov>; Tates, Samuel <Tates.Samuel@epa.gov>; Tatum, Stephen <Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov>; Taylor, Jillianne <Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov>; Thompson, Henry <Thompson.Henry@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Williams, Latrice <Williams.Latrice@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; klindley@hc-inc.net  
**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire



## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

### US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring.

TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H2S, and O2). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** The EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EOA START also visited the North Cottonwood Creek and reported that an earthen dam was constructed and a Vac Truck was on site. There was no sheening in the creek, just ash and foam. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>  
<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

*Matthew Loesel*

*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (65ED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*

Message

---

**From:** Kelly Cook [kelly.cook@tceq.texas.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 9:11:43 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]; Gary Sinclair [Gary.Sinclair@tceq.texas.gov]  
**CC:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]; Carroll, Craig [Carroll.Craig@epa.gov]; Petersen, Chris [petersen.chris@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Poly-America Fire Response - ASPECT data

Matthew,  
Thank you for sharing this information.

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:44 PM  
**To:** Gary Sinclair <Gary.Sinclair@tceq.texas.gov>; Kelly Cook <kelly.cook@tceq.texas.gov>  
**Cc:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Petersen, Chris <petersen.chris@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Poly-America Fire Response - ASPECT data

Please see the following message regarding the preliminary data from our overflight this morning.

The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft found detections of isobutylene and 1-butene. ASPECT found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values on August 19, 2020. ASPECT has conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

If you have any questions or additional needs or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

*Matthew Loesel*  
*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*  
1201 Elm Street  
Suite 500 (65ED-EC)  
Dallas, Texas 75270  
(214) 738 0674 (mobile)  
(214) 665 8544 (office)  
[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)

Message

---

**From:** Carroll, Craig [Carroll.Craig@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 9:11:16 PM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Fw: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Bryant, per our discussion, please contact Wilma and see if we can pilot the 3rd Party Review Process.

Matt, see question on foam. Do we have any information on that?

---

**From:** Stenger, Wren <stenger.wren@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:02 PM  
**To:** Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Price, Lisa <Price.Lisa@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Did the fire-fighting foam used include PFAS? Also, Lisa suggested that this be a pilot for Wilma and our 3<sup>rd</sup> party reviewer.

**WREN STENGER**  
**DIRECTOR, SUPERFUND AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
**EPA REGION 6 DALLAS, TEXAS**  
**214.665.6563**

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:52 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Boynton, Lisa <Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov>; Brooks, Christopher <brooks.christopher@epa.gov>; Burton, Terry <Burton.Terry@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Courtney Hoover <courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov>; Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>; gbrown@hc-inc.net; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Hollier, Alice <Hollier.Alice@epa.gov>; Hope, Ginny <Hope.Ginny@epa.gov>; Irizarry, Gilberto <Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov>; LaBombard, Will <LaBombard.Will@epa.gov>; Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>; Mask, Kendra <Mask.Kendra@epa.gov>; McAtee, Jeffrey <McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; McQueen, Ken <McQueen.Ken@epa.gov>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>; Oh, Peter <Oh.Peter@epa.gov>; Paisley, Eric <Paisley.Eric@epa.gov>; R6 Deputy Division Directors <R6\_Deputy\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 Division Directors <R6\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 OSC <R6\_OSC@epa.gov>; Smith, Monica <smith.monica@epa.gov>; Spiers, Brett <spiers.brett@epa.gov>; Stevens, Bill <stevens.bill@epa.gov>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Tanimura, Erin <Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov>; Tate, Samuel <Tate.Samuel@epa.gov>; Tatum, Stephen <Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov>; Taylor, Jillianne <Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov>; Thompson, Henry <Thompson.Henry@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Williams, Latrice <Williams.Latrice@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; klindley@hc-inc.net  
**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

### US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

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**Media Interest:** High

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<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

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*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (65ED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*

Message

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F2136F67BD8644149EF4883722E4DA9A-LOESEL, MATT]  
**Sent:** 8/27/2020 4:34:26 PM  
**To:** Cavnor, Charles [charles.cavnor@dallascityhall-tx.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Final ASPECT Report for Poly-America Fire  
**Attachments:** ASPECT Summary Poly America Fire 21 Aug 2020.pdf

---

**From:** Cavnor, Charles <charles.cavnor@dallascityhall-tx.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 10:56 AM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Final ASPECT Report for Poly-America Fire

I viewed the email and didn't see an attachment (report).

Charles Cavnor, Lieutenant  
Hazardous Materials Response Team  
Special Operations  
Dallas Fire Rescue Department  
(M)817-723-8304  
(Email) [Charles.Cavnor@dallascityhall-tx.gov](mailto:Charles.Cavnor@dallascityhall-tx.gov)

**CONFIDENTIAL NOTICE :** This email and any files accompanying its transmission are intended only for the recipient to whom it was addressed. This email may contain information that is legally privileged, confidential, or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, be advised that the unauthorized use, disclosure, duplication, distribution, or the taking of any action in reliance on this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please notify the sender by return email and then remove it immediately from your system. Please refer to the above paragraph for specifics.

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**From:** "Loesel, Matthew" <[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 10:51 AM  
**To:** "Cavnor, Charles" <[charles.cavnor@dallascityhall-tx.gov](mailto:charles.cavnor@dallascityhall-tx.gov)>  
**Subject:** Final ASPECT Report for Poly-America Fire

External Email

*Matthew Loesel*  
*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*  
*1201 Elm Street*  
*Suite 500 (6SED-EC)*  
*Dallas, Texas 75270*  
*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

(214) 665 8544 (office)

[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Please, do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Message

**From:** Loesel, Matthew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F2136F67BD8644149EF4883722E4DA9A-LOESEL, MATT]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 8:53:21 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen [assunto.carmen@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire  
**Attachments:** Spot Report 7996 Poly-America Fire2.docx

For you of course

---

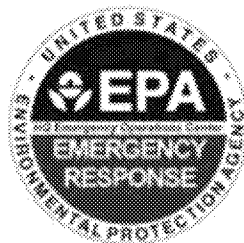
**From:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:53 PM  
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**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:52 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Boynton, Lisa <Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov>; Brooks, Christopher <brooks.christopher@epa.gov>; Burton, Terry <Burton.Terry@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Courtney Hoover <courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov>; Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>; gbrown@hc-inc.net; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Hollier, Alice <Hollier.Alice@epa.gov>; Hope, Ginny <Hope.Ginny@epa.gov>; Irizarry, Gilberto <Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov>; LaBombard, Will <LaBombard.Will@epa.gov>; Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>; Mask, Kendra <Mask.Kendra@epa.gov>; McAtee, Jeffrey <McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; McQueen, Ken <McQueen.Ken@epa.gov>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>; Oh, Peter <Oh.Peter@epa.gov>; Paisley, Eric <Paisley.Eric@epa.gov>; R6 Deputy Division Directors <R6\_Deputy\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 Division Directors <R6\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 OSC <R6\_OSC@epa.gov>; Smith, Monica <smith.monica@epa.gov>; Spiers, Brett <spiers.brett@epa.gov>; Stevens, Bill <stevens.bill@epa.gov>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Tanimura, Erin <Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov>; Tate, Samuel <Tate.Samuel@epa.gov>; Tatum, Stephen <Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov>; Taylor, Jillianne <Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov>; Thompson, Henry <Thompson.Henry@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Williams, Latrice <Williams.Latrice@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; klindley@hc-inc.net  
**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring.

TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H<sub>2</sub>S, and O<sub>2</sub>). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** The EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EOA START also visited the North Cottonwood Creek and reported that an earthen dam was constructed and a Vac Truck was on site. There was no sheening in the creek, just ash and foam. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>  
<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

***Matthew Loesel***

***U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator***

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (6SED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*loesel.matthew@epa.gov*



## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

### US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date: 8/19/2020**

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring.

TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H2S, and O2). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** The EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from

ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EOA START also visited the North Cottonwood Creek and reported that an earthen dam was constructed and a Vac Truck was on site. There was no sheening in the creek, just ash and foam. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

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<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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Message

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**From:** Loesel, Matthew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F2136F67BD8644149EF4883722E4DA9A-LOESEL, MATT]  
**Sent:** 8/27/2020 3:34:37 PM  
**To:** charles.cavnor@dallascityhall.tx.gov  
**Subject:** Final ASPECT Report for Poly-America Fire  
**Attachments:** ASPECT Summary Poly America Fire 21 Aug 2020.pdf

Here is the final report from the ASPECT flight for last week's fire at Poly America. Let me know if you have any questions.

*Matthew Loesel*  
*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*  
*1201 Elm Street*  
*Suite 500 (6SED-EC)*  
*Dallas, Texas 75270*  
*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*  
*(214) 665 8544 (office)*  
[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)

Message

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F2136F67BD8644149EF4883722E4DA9A-LOESEL, MATT]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 8:46:06 PM  
**To:** Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: How is this

START said they saw ash/foam in the creek – trucks there creating earthen dam and vac truck for the foam. I will add to Update

---

**From:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:45 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** How is this

Matt – anybody following up on North Cottonwood creek?

Poly-America Fire Response Spot Report Update:

Overview - A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring. TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H2S, and O2). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

The EPAs Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

*Matthew Loesel*

***U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator***

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (6SED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*loesel.matthew@epa.gov*

Message

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**From:** Loesel, Matthew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F2136F67BD8644149EF4883722E4DA9A-LOESEL, MATT]  
**Sent:** 8/24/2020 3:07:39 PM  
**To:** Rauscher, Jon [Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov]; Turner, Philip [Turner.Philip@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: R6 Poly-America Fire Response Report  
**Attachments:** ASPECT Summary Poly America Fire 21 Aug 2020.pdf; ASPECT Summary Poly America Fire 21 Aug 2020.docx

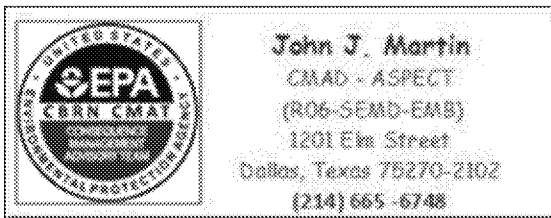
---

**From:** Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 4:48 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>; Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Taylor, Jillianne <Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>; Kaelin, Lawrence <Kaelin.Lawrence@epa.gov>; Perovich, Gina <Perovich.Gina@epa.gov>; Waltzer, Sam <Waltzer.Sam@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: R6 Poly-America Fire Response Report

Matt and Bryant,

Here's the draft Final Report for the Poly-America Fire. We made some changes to the typical report format. Let's know what you think or if there are edits/comments/other files that you would like to include for the final Final.

Have a great weekend---jjm



Message

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**From:** Loesel, Matthew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F2136F67BD8644149EF4883722E4DA9A-LOESEL, MATT]  
**Sent:** 8/20/2020 9:41:56 PM  
**To:** Blanco, Arturo [Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Taheri, Diane [Taheri.Diane@epa.gov]; Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]; Vaughn, Gloria [Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov]; Acosta, Gerardo [acosta.gerardo@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

We do not foresee another spot report for this incident

---

**From:** Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 4:41 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>; Vaughn, Gloria <Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo <Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Matt – Will there be another update coordinated with Public Affairs? TEJAS and Grassroots Global Justice Alliance are asking for information as follows:

*“Ramon and I look forward to hearing about the update, whether there is a chance for the fire to billow again. Remembering how ITC went here what are the dangers present with smoldering and fuming of any gases, chemicals, and other air quality updates, the unseen dangers as well as any cleanup measures.”*

Arturo J. Blanco, Director  
Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment  
Office of the Regional Administrator  
US EPA Region 6  
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500  
Dallas, TX 75270-2102  
214.665.3182 (O)  
214.531.8629 (M)

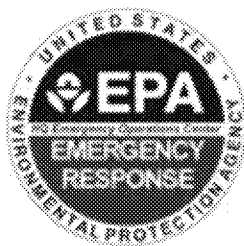
---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:52 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Boynton, Lisa <Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov>; Brooks, Christopher <brooks.christopher@epa.gov>; Burton, Terry <Burton.Terry@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Courtney Hoover <courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov>; Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>; gbrown@hc-inc.net; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Hollier, Alice <Hollier.Alice@epa.gov>; Hope, Ginny <Hope.Ginny@epa.gov>; Irizarry, Gilberto <Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov>; LaBombard, Will <LaBombard.Will@epa.gov>; Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>; Mask, Kendra <Mask.Kendra@epa.gov>; McAtee, Jeffrey <McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; McQueen, Ken <McQueen.Ken@epa.gov>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>; Oh, Peter <Oh.Peter@epa.gov>; Paisley, Eric <Paisley.Eric@epa.gov>; R6 Deputy Division Directors <R6\_Deputy\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 Division Directors <R6\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 OSC <R6\_OSC@epa.gov>; Smith, Monica <smith.monica@epa.gov>; Spiers, Brett <spiers.brett@epa.gov>; Stevens, Bill <stevens.bill@epa.gov>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Tanimura, Erin <Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov>; Tate, Samuel <Tate.Samuel@epa.gov>; Tatum, Stephen <Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov>; Taylor, Jillianne <Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov>; Thompson, Henry <Thompson.Henry@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve

<thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Williams, Latrice <Williams.Latrice@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen  
<Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; klindley@hc-inc.net

**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

### US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date:** 8/19/2020

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

**Overview:** A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie continues to smolder from some hot spots. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring.

TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 is 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H<sub>2</sub>S, and O<sub>2</sub>). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

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**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>  
<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

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*Matthew Loesel*

*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (65ED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*

Message

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**From:** Loesel, Matthew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F2136F67BD8644149EF4883722E4DA9A-LOESEL, MATT]  
**Sent:** 8/20/2020 5:04:36 PM  
**To:** dringhauser@gptx.org; oem@gptx.org  
**Subject:** FW: Poly-America Fire Response

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:23 PM  
**To:** Cindy Mendez <Cmendez@GPTX.org>; d.ringhauser@gptx.org  
**Subject:** Poly-America Fire Response

Please see the following message regarding the preliminary data from our overflight this morning.

The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft found detections of isobutylene and 1-butene. ASPECT found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values on August 19, 2020. ASPECT has conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

If you have any questions or additional needs or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

*Matthew Loesel*

*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (6SED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*



Message

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**From:** Loesel, Matthew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F2136F67BD8644149EF4883722E4DA9A-LOESEL, MATT]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 10:52:29 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen [Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 19, 2020, at 5:31 PM, Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov> wrote:

Just following up. Yes. I modified a bit, then sent to EJ. All completed. C

On Aug 19, 2020, at 3:54 PM, Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov> wrote:

Many thanks. Most of the reports I get from yall for externals are called Management Reports. I'm not sure I've done a spot report before. I will have to get clearance, for real, for this to go out.

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:53 PM  
**To:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

For you of course

---

**From:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:53 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

Is there a Microsoft doc I can work with on this?

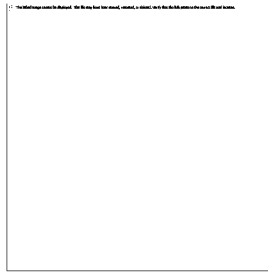
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**To:** Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Boynton, Lisa <Boynton.Lisa@epa.gov>; Brooks, Christopher <brooks.christopher@epa.gov>; Burton, Terry <Burton.Terry@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Courtney Hoover <courtney\_hoover@ios.doi.gov>; Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>; gbrown@hc-inc.net; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Hollier, Alice <Hollier.Alice@epa.gov>; Hope, Ginny <Hope.Ginny@epa.gov>; Irizarry, Gilberto <Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov>; LaBombard, Will <LaBombard.Will@epa.gov>; Martin, John <martin.john@epa.gov>; Mask, Kendra <Mask.Kendra@epa.gov>; McAtee, Jeffrey <McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; McQueen, Ken <McQueen.Ken@epa.gov>; Nguyen,

Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>; Oh, Peter <Oh.Peter@epa.gov>; Paisley, Eric <Paisley.Eric@epa.gov>; R6 Deputy Division Directors <R6\_Deputy\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 Division Directors <R6\_Division\_Directors@epa.gov>; R6 OSC <R6\_OSC@epa.gov>; Smith, Monica <smith.monica@epa.gov>; Spiers, Brett <spiers.brett@epa.gov>; Stevens, Bill <stevens.bill@epa.gov>; susan king@ios.doi.gov; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Tanimura, Erin <Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov>; Tates, Samuel <Tates.Samuel@epa.gov>; Tatum, Stephen <Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov>; Taylor, Jillianne <Taylor.Jillianne@epa.gov>; Thompson, Henry <Thompson.Henry@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Williams, Latrice <Williams.Latrice@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; klindley@hc-inc.net

**Subject:** Final Spot Report on Poly America Fire

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## Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

### US Environmental Protection Agency

**Report Date:** 8/19/2020

*Last edited 8/19/2020 4:49 PM UTC*

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The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) arrived at the site with their contractors and conducted air monitoring. TCEQ monitoring indicated the only readings being detected were for particulate matter (10 micrometers, PM10), ranging from 5 – 553

micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) approximate half a mile to a mile southwest of the site. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM<sub>10</sub> is 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . No readings have been detected by the MultiRAE Pros (LEL, VOCs, CO, H<sub>2</sub>S, and O<sub>2</sub>). They are working with the responsible Party (RP) to have them take over air monitoring.

**EPA Actions:** The EPAs Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Poly-America Fire Response in Grand Prairie, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for isobutylene (270 ppm) and 1-butene (27 ppm).

Additionally EPA's START contractor performed air monitoring at 1 upwind and 2 downwind locations, with no detections at or near screening levels. EOA START also visited the North Cottonwood Creek and reported that an earthen dam was constructed and a Vac Truck was on site. There was no sheening in the creek, just ash and foam. EPA START is demobilizing from the scene.

**Media Interest:** High

**Media Links:** <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>  
<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/large-warehouse-fire-in-grand-prairie/2428491/>

**Note:**

**The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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*Matthew Loesel*

*U.S. EPA - Federal On-Scene Coordinator*

*1201 Elm Street*

*Suite 500 (65ED-EC)*

*Dallas, Texas 75270*

*(214) 738 0674 (mobile)*

*(214) 665 8544 (office)*

*[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)*

Message

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**From:** Loesel, Matthew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F2136F67BD8644149EF4883722E4DA9A-LOESEL, MATT]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2020 9:51:39 PM  
**To:** Cook, David [David.Cook@WestonSolutions.com]; Rauscher, Jon [Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Eric.bay@westonsolutions.com  
**Subject:** RE: Poly-America Fire Response

Let's say 9:30

---

**From:** Cook, David <David.Cook@WestonSolutions.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:51 PM  
**To:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>; Rauscher, Jon <Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Eric.bay@westonsolutions.com  
**Subject:** RE: Poly-America Fire Response

I am in favor of that. What timeframe works for you?

**David Cook**  
**START R6 IT/Data Management Lead**  
**Weston Solutions, Inc.**  
(469) 666-5505 Direct  
(512) 970-8836 Cell

---

**From:** Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:50 PM  
**To:** Cook, David <David.Cook@WestonSolutions.com>; Rauscher, Jon <Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Bay, Eric <Eric.Bay@WestonSolutions.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Poly-America Fire Response

**\*\* External Email \*\***  
Let's talk tomorrow

---

**From:** Cook, David <David.Cook@WestonSolutions.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:49 PM  
**To:** Rauscher, Jon <Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov>; Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Eric.bay@westonsolutions.com  
**Subject:** RE: Poly-America Fire Response

Hello Doctor and Matt--

I assume we need a map to accompany this text blurb? Can you have the ASPECT folk send me the typical KML?

Would you like me to throw the roving Air Mon. Data on a map too? If so:

What would the Reporting period be?

What are the analytes we are monitoring and what is the detect/non-detect threshold?

Do we need a quick call?

Thanks,

**David Cook**

**START R6 IT/Data Management Lead**

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**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:13 PM

**To:** Loesel, Matthew <[loesel.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:loesel.matthew@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Smalley, Bryant <[smalley.bryant@epa.gov](mailto:smalley.bryant@epa.gov)>; Turner, Philip <[turner.philip@epa.gov](mailto:turner.philip@epa.gov)>; Hidalgo, Chelsea <[Hidalgo.Chelsea@epa.gov](mailto:Hidalgo.Chelsea@epa.gov)>; Cook, David <[David.Cook@WestonSolutions.com](mailto:David.Cook@WestonSolutions.com)>; Cook, Brenda <[cook.brenda@epa.gov](mailto:cook.brenda@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Poly-America Fire Response

**\*\* External Email \*\***

ASPECT:

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Message

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**Sent:** 8/19/2020 9:49:49 PM  
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**Subject:** RE: Poly-America Fire Response

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**Cc:** Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>; Turner, Philip <turner.philip@epa.gov>; Hidalgo, Chelsea <Hidalgo.Chelsea@epa.gov>; Cook, David <David.Cook@WestonSolutions.com>; Cook, Brenda <cook.brenda@epa.gov>  
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